PLANNING ANYTHING WITH RIGOR: GENERAL-PURPOSE ZERO-SHOT PLANNING WITH LLM-BASED FORMALIZED PROGRAMMING

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ABSTRACT

While large language models (LLMs) have recently demonstrated strong potential in solving planning problems, there is a trade-off between flexibility and complexity. LLMs, as zero-shot planners themselves, are still not capable of directly generating valid plans for complex planning problems such as multi-constraint or long-horizon tasks. On the other hand, many frameworks aiming to solve complex planning problems often rely on task-specific preparatory efforts, such as taskspecific in-context examples and pre-defined critics/verifiers, which limits their cross-task generalization capability. In this paper, we tackle these challenges by observing that the core of many planning problems lies in optimization problems: searching for the optimal solution (best plan) with goals subject to constraints (preconditions and effects of decisions). With LLMs' commonsense, reasoning, and programming capabilities, this opens up the possibilities of a universal LLMbased approach to planning problems. Inspired by this observation, we propose LLMFP, a general-purpose framework that leverages LLMs to capture key information from planning problems and formally formulate and solve them as optimization problems from scratch, with no task-specific examples needed. We apply LLMFP to 9 planning problems, ranging from multi-constraint decision making to multi-step planning problems, and demonstrate that LLMFP achieves on average 83.7% and 86.8% optimal rate across 9 tasks for GPT-40 and Claude 3.5 Sonnet, significantly outperforming the best baseline (direct planning with OpenAI o1-preview) with 37.6% and 40.7% improvements. We also validate components of LLMFP with ablation experiments and analyzed the underlying success and failure reasons.

1 Introduction

Making complex plans subject to multiple constraints is a time- and labor-intensive process, but is critical in many aspects of our lives such as work arrangement, business management, logistics, and robotics. In the past, people used domain-specific tools and languages to make specific plans in their areas, which often required a steep learning curve and were hard to adapt to other domains. When large language models (LLMs) emerge with their versatile capabilities such as language understanding, reasoning, and tool-using, using LLMs for planning has gained significant traction.

For such planning systems to be deployed in complex, real-world applications, two desirable properties need to be satisfied: 1). Zero-shot flexibility: Unlike many experimental settings where planning tasks usually come with labeled datasets, it is very challenging to request such datasets from users in many realistic settings. Ideally, a flexible planning system should be able to conduct planning with only a task description provided by users, and nothing else. 2). High performance on complex tasks: Realistic planning problems usually require multi-step, long-horizon solutions, with many explicit and implicit constraints.

However, there is a trade-off between flexibility and task complexity, and thus existing LLM-based planning systems are typically unable to achieve both simultaneously. On one hand, planning systems capable of performing zero-shot planning, utilizing the abundant knowledge and generalization

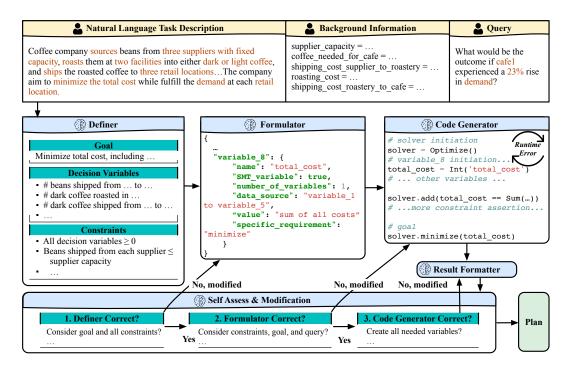


Figure 1: An overview of LLMFP and how it is applied to a coffee supply chain example. All sections in yellow are inputs, and all sections in blue are steps accomplished by LLMs. With task description, background information, and query as inputs, LLMFP defines the goal, decision variables, and constraints of this optimization problem, identifies all necessary variables and summarizes their key information into a JSON representation, generates codes to solve the optimization problem, executes the codes and formats the execution results, and performs self-assessment for each step.

capabilities in LLMs, in many successful applications can only solve single-objective tasks such as household chores, with step-by-step interactive planning and grounding (Huang et al., 2022a; Ahn et al., 2022; Huang et al., 2022b). For complex, multi-constraint, and long-horizon tasks that involve iterative trials and errors even for humans, LLMs still do not have the capabilities to generate valid plans by themselves (Kambhampati et al., 2024). On the other hand, recent research efforts to empower LLM-based planners to solve complex tasks are often based on well-designed task-specific in-context examples and extensive task-specific pre-defined efforts (Liu et al., 2023; Xie et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023; Song et al., 2023; Gundawar et al., 2024), impacting their zero-shot flexibility. In short, few existing planning systems can flexibly resolve generic complex tasks with only task descriptions in natural language. Hence we ask: Can we build a universal LLM-based planning system that can solve complex planning problems without task-specific efforts?

In this paper, we observe that, although planning problems come with drastic variations, many of them can be recast as constrained optimization problems — The optimization problems aim to find the optimal solution, which is equivalent to locating the best plan that satisfies the goal for planning problems; the decision's precondition and effect are equivalent to constraints of optimization problems. Furthermore, although solving complex planning tasks is generally beyond the capabilities of LLMs, converting any planning tasks into optimization problems is a much more tractable problem, and can be within the zero-shot capabilities of LLMs.

Motivated by this, we propose **LLM**-Based **F**ormalized **P**rogramming (LLMFP, illustrated in Fig. 1), a general-purpose zero-shot planning framework that leverages LLM's strong common reasoning, and programming capabilities to encode planning problems into optimization problems without any task-specific examples or designs, combined with a formal planner to solve the optimization problem. LLMFP takes in natural language domain description, natural language query under this domain, and available background information or APIs as inputs, and solves the planning problem in five steps. First, LLMFP prompts LLMs to reason and propose the goal, decision variables, and key constraints necessary for the task. Second, based on the response, LLMFP asks

LLMs to formulate a representation that includes all variables needed to construct and their detailed information and requirements. Third, with the representation, LLMs write codes to formally encode the problem into an optimization problem. Fourth, LLMFP executes the generated codes, converts the execution results into plans. Finally, LLMFP performs overall self-assessment and automatic modification to fix the broken parts of the previous steps. Currently, LLMFP uses the satisfiability modulo theory (SMT) to encode the optimization problems but can be adapted to any planners or solvers by updating the requirements and representation format in the prompts.

We evaluate our framework with 9 diverse planning problems, ranging from single-step supply chain problem to multi-step robot block stacking and moving. Experiment results demonstrate that LLMFP achieves strong performance across all tasks with an average of 83.7% and 86.8% optimal rates for GPT-40 and Claude 3.5 Sonnet, which greatly outperforms the baselines, including direct plan generation with OpenAI o1-preview. We conduct ablation experiments to validate the key components of our framework and investigate the underlying reasons why our framework is more effective than baselines. In addition, although our framework does not require task-specific examples, we show the ease of adding task-specific examples to one stage of LLMFP, and how it could help to clarify unclear queries and therefore can further improve the performance within the same domain.

In summary, our key contributions are:

- We offer a novel perspective on using LLMs to solve planning problems by rigorously constructing
 optimization problems from scratch, alike how human experts use optimization tools for planning.
- We propose LLMFP, a general-purpose planning framework with zero-shot generalization capability. To our knowledge, LLMFP is the first to enable LLMs to build and solve diverse types of planning problems as optimization problems with no task-specific examples or external critics.
- LLMFP notably achieves 83.7% and 86.8% optimal rates for GPT-40 and Claude 3.5 Sonnet, outperforming the best baseline (direct planning with OpenAI o1-preview) by 37.6% and 40.7%. We examine the effectiveness of our framework and analyze the success and failure reasons.

2 RELATED WORKS

2.1 LLMs for Planning

The remarkable capabilities of LLMs in reasoning (Wei et al., 2022; Kojima et al., 2022; Yao et al., 2022; 2024) and tool-use (Qin et al., 2023; Schick et al., 2024) brings up interests of utilizing LLMs to solve planning problems. Based on LLMs commonsense and zero-shot generalization capability, many works capable of performing zero-shot planning are proposed (Huang et al., 2022a; Ahn et al., 2022; Huang et al., 2022b). However, their planning scenarios are limited to simple singleobjective tasks such as household cleaning and they often require step-by-step interactive planning with grounding. To improve LLMs reasoning and planning capabilities for more complex problems, chain-of-thought (CoT) prompting appends reasoning steps before the answer to encourage LLMs to perform step-by-step reasoning (Wei et al., 2022). Recent works also propose to aid the LLM planning processes with external tools (Liu et al., 2023; Guan et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023; Gundawar et al., 2024; Hao et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2024). For example, (Liu et al., 2023; Xie et al., 2023; Gundawar et al., 2024) leverages LLMs as translators to convert problems into fixed formats and inputting them to external planners, (Li et al., 2023) prompts LLM to add short codes to existing optimization codes of certain domain to account for follow-up what-if questions, and (Gundawar et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2024) empowers LLMs to iteratively refine plans or prompts based on feedback from external task-specific critics/verifiers/humans. However, to achieve strong performance, these methods are often based on extensive task-specific pre-defined efforts. For example, CoT depends on task-specific examples to achieve strong performance, domain files written in the planning domain definition language (PDDL) (Aeronautiques et al., 1998; Haslum et al., 2019) are required for (Liu et al., 2023), codes that encode domains into a mixed-integer linear program (MILP) are necessary for (Li et al., 2023), and external constraint critics are needed for (Gundawar et al., 2024). These requirements limit the generalization capability of these works to new domains.

2.2 LLM + SOLVER

As existing LLMs still do not have the capability to perform long-horizon reasoning for complex tasks (Achiam et al., 2023; Valmeekam et al., 2022; 2023; Kambhampati et al.), many works propose to take advantages of both LLMs and external planners or solvers by combining them for reasoning or planning. (Wu et al., 2022; He-Yueya et al., 2023; Pan et al., 2023; Ye et al., 2024) combines LLM with symbolic solvers to solve logical reasoning problems. LLMFP differs from them in that we aim to solve complex planning problems, which could include implicit constraints not clearly described in the task description and could be sequentially long-horizon tasks with defined actions. Instead, most logical reasoning problems are single-step satisfiction problems and clearly specify all constraints in question. In addition, LLMFP proposes a general approach, which does not require task-specific examples or task-specific efforts. (Li et al., 2023) teaches LLMs to add constraints to existing MILP code snippets of planning problems. (Li et al., 2024) asks the developer to express planning problems into automaton and guide the LLMs for planning based on it. (Liu et al., 2023; Guan et al., 2023; Zhou et al., 2024; Xie et al., 2023) leverages PDDL planner to aid the planning processes. Except for the natural language task description, they require human efforts to design solver-related specifications and task-specific examples, which is not needed for LLMFP.

3 LLMFP

LLMFP aims to deliver a plan that can resolve generic planning problems. For example, consider a *coffee supply chain problem*, where a coffee company sources beans from three suppliers with fixed capacity, roasts them at two facilities into either dark or light coffee and ships the roasted coffee to three retail locations to fulfill their demands. Then a planning problem involves accomplishing the task at the cheapest cost.

To achieve this, LLMFP takes the following inputs from users, as shown in Figure 1 (top panels).

- Natural Language Task Description. A natural language description that details the problem settings and the planning objective, such as the above description of the coffee problem.
- Background Information & API. A list of background information about the tasks as well as information on APIs that the planner can use. An example of the background information for the coffee task is the variables containing specific numbers of supplier capacities, cafe demands, and costs for shipping and roasting.
- User Query. The question that either describes the detailed initial and/or goal states or adds/modifies existing requirements of the tasks. In the coffee planning task, one example query is 'What would be the outcome if cafe1 experienced a 23% rise in demand'.

Example inputs for all 9 tasks can be found in Appendix A.5. Note that LLMFP does not require any task-specific examples from the users. Considering the diversity of user requests, LLMFP needs to accommodate a large variety of domains, planning problem setups, user queries, constraints, and complexity levels, which poses a great challenge.

3.1 Overview

Emulating how humans construct and write codes to solve optimization problems, LLMFP solves the planning problems via the following steps, as shown in Fig. 1. • DEFINER: LLMFP first prompts an LLM to define the problem by analyzing and proposing the optimization goal, decision variables, and constraints of the optimization problem (Sec. 3.2). • FORMULATOR: LLMFP asks LLM to think about the necessary variables and steps to build when programming, and formulate a representation to summarize all key information of these variables (Sec. 3.3). • CODE GENERATOR: Given this representation, LLMs generate codes that initialize all necessary variables, assert constraints, and add goals (Sec. 3.4). • RESULT FORMATTER: After LLMFP executes the generated codes, it prompts LLMs to convert the execution result into a fixed format and provide a short assessment of the execution results (Sec. 3.5). • SELF ASSESSMENT AND MODIFICATION: LLMFP assesses each step based on the execution result, and modifies the first incorrect step (Sec. 3.6). The generated plan is delivered when it passes self-assessments of all steps. Please refer to Appendix A.6 and A.7 for example outputs and prompts of all steps in LLMFP.

```
Example 3: A dictionary with (block, block, timestep) keys,
Example 1: A list of SMT binary variables, length=5
                                                initialized with information from query
"variable_2": {
                                                 variable_2": {
                                                    "name": "on"
    "name": "v
    "SMT_variable": true,
                                                    "SMT variable": false,
    "number of variables": 5.
                                                    "number_of_variables": 1,
    "data_source": null,
                                                    "data_source": "query, variable_1",
     'value": "binary variable indicating
                                                    "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables
whether each plant is open",
    "specific_requirement": "y_i is binary
                                                representing whether a block is on another block
                                                at a timestep: keys are (block, block, timestep)",
(0 or 1) for all i"
                                                    "specific_requirement": "add constraint to
                                                initialize timestep 0 according to query, for
                                                unmentioned objects explicitly set it to be False
Example 2: A list of SMT variables, length=5, got
                                                Example 4: A list contains all actions, as one step from update
from inputing station indexes to get_distance() API
                                                stage, add constraint to assert one action per timestep
variable 3": {
                                                 step 5": {
                                                     'name": "all actions",
    "name": "distances",
    "SMT_variable": true,
                                                    "SMT_variable": false,
     "number_of_variables": 5,
                                                    "number_of_variables": "list of all actions",
    "data_source": "get distance()",
                                                    "data_source": "variable_1, variable_7,
                                               variable_8, variable_9, variable_10",
    "value": "for each timestep t until T, a list
    "value": "distances between origin and
first station, between consecutive
stations, and between last station and
                                                of all possible actions corresponding to different
                                                objects",
    "specific_requirement": "distance
                                                    "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t
between each station pair, including
                                                until T, explicitly assert ONLY ONE action per
origin'
                                                timestep'
```

Figure 2: Examples of diverse variables and steps appeared in different tasks. Examples 1 and 2 are from single-step multi-constraint problems, and Examples 3 and 4 are from multi-step problems.

3.2 Definer

The first step of building an optimization problem is to identify the goal, decision variables, and constraints of the problem. This is accomplished by prompting the LLM to express in a natural language format (See Figure 1 for an example). The prompt includes **①** all the user-supplied task information; **②** a description of what goal, decision variables, and constraints mean; and **③** an instruction to output the aforementioned information. The detailed prompt is listed in Appendix A.7.2.

While generating the goals and decision variables are straightforward, generating the constraints is challenging, because certain constraints are not explicitly stated and can only be inferred by commonsense reasoning. We refer to these as the *implicit constraints*.

For example, in the coffee supply chain task example, the implicit constraints include 'the roasted coffee in each roastery does not exceed the beans it receives', 'the shipped coffee from each roastery does not exceed the coffee it roasts', and importantly but easily overlooked, 'all numbers of shipped and roasted beans and coffee need to be non-negative integer'.

To facilitate uncovering the implicit constraints, we include in the prompts (under the description of constraints) a three-step instruction to derive the constraints: ① Identify all decision variables in this task, ② for each pair of decision variables, consider relations (explicit, implicit, underlying assumption, unmentioned commonsense) between them to make sure all variables are connected, and ③ provide a constraint reasoning first before answering. This effectively helps LLMs to better identify implicit constraints for multi-constraint planning problems. Since for multi-step planning problems the task description needs to explicitly define the preconditions and effects of each action, there will be no implicit constraint so this step is omitted.

3.3 FORMULATOR

Although from the last step, we have defined the optimization goal, decision variables, and constraints, more efforts are needed to integrate these into executable and correct code snippets. For example, the decision variables may be continuous, binary, or integer; they may need to be arranged into data structures such as lists and dictionaries; they may have fixed values or belong to flexible

ranges, etc. All this information and requirements need further declarations to better generate codes. Fig. 2 shows examples of diverse types of variables.

Single-Step Multi-Constraint Problem To foster LLM to better formulate the variables, we prompt LLM to utilize a fixed-format JSON representation to summarize all variables and their key information. As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, for each variable, the representation uses 6 fields to summarize the information related to this variable. The name field indicates the variable name. Since we are using SMT as the optimization solver. the SMT_variable field indicates whether the variable is an SMT variable or a normal variable. SMT variables are different from normal variables in that they don't hold specific values upfront, rather, they are symbolic variables to represent unknown values. The number_of_variables field represents the length of the variable. For example, the total cost in the coffee supply chain task has a length of 1, but the number of coffee beans shipped from supplier to roasteries would be a list of length 6 since there are 3 suppliers and 2 roasteries. The data_source field denotes the dependencies of the variable. For example, since the total cost of the coffee task is the summation of shipping cost from suppliers to roasteries, roasting cost, and shipping cost from roasteries to cafes, they are the data source of the total cost. The value field further specifies the value of the variable. It could either be a real number or list, a string describing keys and values when the data structure of the variable is a dictionary, or it could be a description of operations to do with the data source. In the coffee example, the value is a string "sum of all costs" for the total cost variable. The specific_requirement field is where we point to the constraints or goals related to this variable. For example, the specific requirement for total cost is "minimize", and for the number of coffee beans shipped from supplier to roasteries, it could be "non-negative integer, summation for each supplier greater than capacity". With this intermediate step between DEFINER and CODE GENERATOR, LLMFP is capable of obtaining a more detailed, well-formulated, and overall coding plan. We teach LLM to formulate variables into this representation by including two simple examples in the prompt. Note these two examples are not task-specific examples of any of our testing tasks and we do not modify these two examples across tasks.

Multi-Step Planning Problem In addition to including information of variables in the JSON representation, more information is needed for multi-step planning problems. Since predicates, actions, and their preconditions and effects are involved in multi-step problems, we separate the JSON representation for multi-step problems into five stages: objects, predicates, actions, update, goal and each stage includes 6-field representations described above. The objects stage declares all objects in the scenario. The predicates stage defines the predicates, which represent the properties of objects and the relationships between them. The actions stage initializes variables to represent all actions. The update stage adds assertions to existing action variables to account for the preconditions and effects of actions. The goal stage adds constraint to existing predicate variables to encode the goal. As shown in Fig. 2, Example 3 shows a variable in predicates stage, which initializes a dictionary with keys (block, block, timestep) to represent whether a block is on another block at a certain timestep. Example 4 shows a step in update stage, which collects all defined actions in actions stage and asserts that only one action can be true for a timestep. For multi-step planning tasks, we replace the examples with a multi-step task example, and similarly, it is not a task-specific example and we do not modify it across tasks.

To generate the above information, the FORMULATOR's prompt includes **1** A brief instruction for the FORMULATOR, **2** Example input-output pairs of FORMULATOR as demonstrations, and **3** The user-provided task information and DEFINER's output. The detailed prompt is listed in Appendix A.7.2. Note that although example input-output pairs are used, they are task-agnostic examples fixed for all the planning tasks. No task-specific examples are needed.

3.4 Code Generator

With the representation generated from the FORMULATOR, now we have all the information needed to build an optimization problem with codes. In the CODE GENERATOR's prompt, we explain the meanings of different stages and fields in the JSON representation and ask LLMs to follow Python and Z3 SMT syntax (De Moura & Bjørner, 2008). By including user-provided task information and results from DEFINER and FORMULATOR, with no examples, LLM could reliably generate reasonable, executable, and correct Python codes. Then, LLMFP executes the codes and returns to re-generation if there are runtime errors. We set our maximum re-generation times to be 5.

3.5 RESULT FORMATTER

Since the variable names are decided by LLMs and have chances to be very different across queries, after code generation, we use a RESULT FORMATTER to ask LLM to convert the execution result to a fixed output format. For example, the output for the coffee task would be a JSON with the following fields: • number of coffee beans shipped from each supplier to each roastery, • the number of light and dark coffee roasted in each roastery, and • the number of light and dark coffee shipped from each roastery to each cafe. After filling in this result, we prompt the LLM to provide a brief evaluation of the result based on whether the result achieves the goal, satisfies constraints, and makes sense in common sense. Taking commonsense into consideration is important because sometimes if a necessary constraint is missing from the DEFINER step, it could result in unreasonable execution result thus could be unrealistic in commonsense. For example, for the coffee task, if the DEFINER does not include the non-negative constraint, to minimize the cost, the solver could propose negative units of shipped coffee. Detecting these unrealistic plans is helpful in the SELF ASSESS & MODIFICATION step.

3.6 Self Assess & Modification

After we have the execution result and evaluation, LLMFP perform self-assessment to reason about the correctness and provide a rating for the DEFINER, FORMULATOR, and CODE GENERATOR. If the assessment marks all three steps to be correct, this plan will be delivered as the final output of our framework. Otherwise, the assessment will reason about how to modify this step, and provide a modification by itself. This modification will replace the output of the incorrect step and LLMFP will loop back to continue the next steps from there again. That is, if the SELF ASSESSOR thinks the output of the FORMULATOR is incorrect, it will generate a JSON representation by itself, and the framework will use this modified representation to enter CODE GENERATOR again. We set the maximum number of loops to be 5.

3.7 CHOICE OF SOLVER

As a framework that proposes to formulate and solve planning problems as optimization problems, LLMFP could be adapted to use any planner or solver by modifying the requirements in prompt to follow the syntax of new solvers. In this work, we compare the SMT solver with popular PDDL and MILP solvers and choose SMT solver with following reasons: SMT allows explicit goal and constraint assertion from scratch, which could be used to solve both single-step multi-constraint problems and multi-step problems, while PDDL solvers require a PDDL domain file and a PDDL problem file with strictly fixed formats, which limits its capability to solve non-PDDL problems. SMT is complete and sound, that is, it guarantees to find the optimal plan, while PDDL planners are not guaranteed to be complete. In addition, for all optimization solvers like SMT and MILP, the processes of building optimization problems for different optimization solvers or planners are the same: defining the goal, constraints, and decision variables, and writing codes to encode relationships between decision variables. Thus, utilizing any optimization planner has a similar process. We show how easily our framework could adapt to use MILP by including prompt differences and output examples in Appendix A.7.3. We selected SMT over MILP because the SMT Z3 solver is a publicly available package and is more accessible to all users than the Gurobi MILP solver, which requires licenses and limits the number of devices per license.

4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

4.1 Domains

We test on 9 planning problems, which includes 5 multi-constraint decision making tasks, Coffee, Workforce, Facility, Task Allocation, and Warehouse, and 4 multi-step tasks, Blocksworld, Mystery Blocksworld, Movie, and Gripper (Li et al., 2023; Valmeekam et al., 2024; Stein & Koller, 2023). Detailed task descriptions are included in Appendix A.1. The queries are either what-if questions that change/add constraints to the existing scenarios or different task initial and goal conditions. Task inputs including example queries are given in Appendix A.5.

Table 1: Optimal rate (%) co	omparison of LLMFP	with baselines on :	5 multi-constraint problems.
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Method	Coffee	Workforce	Facility	Task Allocation	Warehouse	Average
Direct _{GPT-40}	0.8	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Direct _{O1-PREVIEW}	25.9	47.6	4.8	4.0	66.0	29.7
CoT_{GPT-4O}	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	16.0	4.3
$Code_{GPT-4o}$	17.7	75.8	53.9	0.0	8.0	31.1
LLMFP GPT-40	64.7	92.2	70.7	96.0	72.0	79.1
Direct _{CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET}	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CoT _{CLAUDE} 3.5 SONNET	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.0	4.2
Code _{CLAUDE} 3.5 SONNET	59.8	71.9	47.3	0.0	42.0	44.2
LLMFP CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET	80.5	88.7	48.2	96.0	90.0	80.7

Table 2: Optimal rate (%) comparison of LLMFP with baselines on 4 multi-step problems.

Method	Blocksworld	Mystery Blocksworld	Movie	Gripper	Average
Direct _{GPT-40}	41.5	0.8	85.7	0.0	32.0
Direct _{O1-PREVIEW}	88.4	31.9	100.0	52.0	68.1
CoT_{GPT-4o}	39.9	2.7	81.0	0.0	30.9
$Code_{GPT-4o}$	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
LLMFP GPT-40	96.2	77.7	100.0	76.0	87.5
Direct _{CLAUDE} 3.5 SONNET	43.2	0.5	100.0	12.0	38.9
CoT _{CLAUDE} 3.5 SONNET	52.8	2.8	100.0	28.0	45.9
Code _{CLAUDE} 3.5 SONNET	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LLMFP CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET	93.0	98.0	100.0	76.0	91.8

4.2 LLMFP PERFORMANCE

We evaluate LLMFP on 9 tasks with two models: GPT-40 (gpt) and Claude 3.5 Sonnet (cla) with temperature 0. Each task comes with a natural language task description, background information on the scenarios or info collection API, and natural language queries. For single-step decision-making problems, expected output formats are also provided. With no task-specific example, LLMFP takes these inputs and delivers plans as outputs. We use optimal rate as the evaluation metric, that is, whether the plans are optimal under the current task scenario and query.

Baselines We compare LLMFP against 1) Direct: LLM direct plan generation, 2) CoT: chain-of-thought prompting (Wei et al., 2022) by asking LLMs to reason before generating the final answer, and 3) Code: prompts LLM to generate Python codes to solve the problem, allowing the use of any package or solver. For all baselines, we use both GPT-40 and Claude 3.5 Sonnet and also include a direct plan generation baseline with OpenAI o1-preview (o1p). All baselines are zero-shot with no task-specific examples. All baselines have the same input information as LLMFP, including task description, task background information or info collection API, and query. Please refer to Sec. A.7 for prompts of baselines.

Results and Analysis We include the optimal rate comparison of LLMFP and baselines on 5 multi-constraint problems and 4 multi-step problems in Table 1 and 2. There are three key takeaways:

First, LLMFP achieves strong performance across all 9 tasks, significantly outperforming all baselines. For GPT-40, LLMFP achieves an average of 83.7% optimal rate across 9 tasks (79.1% for 5 multi-constraint problems and 87.5% for 4 multi-step problems). For Claude 3.5 Sonnet, LLMFP achieve an 86.8% optimal rate across 9 tasks (80.7% for 5 multi-constraint problems and 91.8% for 4 multi-step problems). For 5 multi-constraint problems, LLMFP GPT-40 and LLMFP CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET outperform best baselines CodeGPT-40 and CodeCLAUDE 3.5 SONNET by a large margin of 48.0% and 36.5%. For 4 multi-step problems, LLMFP GPT-40 and LLMFP CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET outperform Directo1-PREVIEW and CoTCLAUDE 3.5 SONNET by an average of 19.4% and 45.9%. This highlights both the effectiveness and the generalization capability of LLMFP.

Second, among baselines, Code works better for multi-constraint problems, while Direct and CoT work better for multi-step problems. This validates that the skills required for solving different tasks are different. For multi-constraint problems, as heavy calculations are required to test every possible solution, it is hard for LLMs to directly plan, even with the strongest o1-preview model. For multi-step problems, since Code tries to use a PDDL planner, which requires LLM to generate fixed-format PDDL domain and problem files, it almost always fails to generate and call them correctly. While it is easier for LLMs to directly devise plans as the preconditions and effects of each action are easier to reason about than calculations. This further proves that LLMFP can tackle problems that are fundamentally different because it uses a universal and formal approach for all tasks.

Third, for Direct and CoT, Mystery Blocksworld's performance degrades largely compared to Blocksworld, though they are fundamentally same problems. Changing predicate and action names to illogical names makes LLMs hard to understand the problem and generate reasonable plans. However, LLMFP still can obtain an overall strong optimal rate of 77.7% and 98.0% on Mystery Blocksworld for GPT-40 and Claude 3.5 Sonnet. This shows LLMFP is robust to obfuscated problems, as it can encode the problem as long as the problem is clearly defined regardless of the names.

To summarize, the experiment results show that LLMFP is capable of solving all 9 tasks with strong performance and is robust to fundamentally different and obfuscated problems. We also show the performance of LLMFP across iterations, time and cost statistics, and failure analysis of LLMFP for different tasks in Appendix A.2, A.3, and A.4.

4.3 EFFECTIVENESS OF LLMFP COMPONENTS

We then validate each component of LLMFP with ablation experiments on 9 tasks. We examine the effectiveness of Definer, Formulator, and Self Assess & Modification by removing these components from our framework one at a time and comparing with LLMFP. We do not remove Code Generator and Result Formatter because they are the necessary components of LLMFP to deliver outputs. We use GPT-40 as the LLMs and optimal rate as the evaluation metric.

Results and Analysis We include the optimal rate performance comparison of LLMFP and baselines on 9 problems in Table 3. From Table 3 there are two key takeaways:

First, removing any of the 3 components from LLMFP negatively affects the performance. For multi-constraint problems, removing DEFINER, FORMULATOR, and SELF ASSESS & MODIFICATION lowers the optimal rate by 15.4%, 22.2%, and 21.9%. For multi-step problems, removing FORMULATOR and SELF ASSESS & MODIFICATION reduces the optimal rate by 87.4% and 12.4%.

Second, for different problems, the most effective components are different. Coffee degrades the most for No Definer; Warehouse and all multi-step problems drop the most for No FORMULATOR; and Workforce decreases the most for No Self Assess & Modification. This again validates the diversity of the 9 problems and how they require different efforts to be successfully solved. Thus, LLMFP is an overall framework that could aid the process of planning from all aspects.

Note that Warehouse with No Definer is the only entry that reaches a higher optimal rate than LLMFP. We notice that the main failure case for LLMFP in Warehouse is: LLM overwrites the provided API <code>get_distance</code> and provides 1 as the output during Code Generation. For Warehouse with No Definer, this happens less frequently. This kind of issue could be alleviated by adding non-task-specific modifications to our framework, such as emphasizing direct use of the provided API in prompt or implementing a checker that checks for overwriting of provided APIs.

To summarize, all three components in LLMFP are effective and could account for diverse problems by providing comprehensive aids to solve planning problems.

4.4 LLMFP WITH TASK-SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Although from Sec. 4.2 and Sec. 4.3 we prove that LLMFP is capable of achieving strong performance on a wide range of problems with no task-specific example, we test LLMFP by only replacing the two examples in FORMULATOR to one task-specific example on Coffee task to see how much the task-specific example could further improve LLMFP. Queries of Coffee tasks are what-if questions and are categorized into 7 sets. Each set is a type of question. For example, the type of Set 1 is "demand-increase", that is, every query in Set 1 asks about what if the demand in some cafes

Table 3: Optimal rate (%) comparison when removing some key components of LLMFP on all 9 tasks. LLMs used are GPT-4o.

Domain	No Definer	No Formulator	No Self Assess & Modification	LLMFP
Coffee	8.6	56.4	55.3	64.7
Workforce	84.4	80.5	27.3	92.2
Facility	61.6	53.7	53.7	70.7
Task Allocation	74.0	92.0	96.0	96.0
Warehouse	90	2.0	54.0	72.0
Average	63.7	56.9	57.2	79.1
Blocksworld	N/A	0.2	95.3	96.2
Mystery Blocksworld	N/A	0.0	74.4	77.7
Movie	N/A	0.0	66.7	100.0
Gripper	N/A	0.0	64.0	76.0
Average	N/A	0.1	75.1	87.5

Table 4: Optimal rate (%) comparison of LLMFP and LLMFP with one task-specific example in Formulator on **Coffee** task. Sets represent different types of what-if questions. LLMs are GPT-4o.

Method	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5	Set 6	Set 7	Average
LLMFP LLMFP _{TASK-SPECIFIC}						83.3 100.0		l

increases some amount. The number of queries in the 7 sets are 60, 55, 17, 33, 35, 12, and 54. For each set, we add one task-specific example to FORMULATOR only, test the performance of LLMFP TASK-SPECIFIC over this set, and compare with LLMFP performance over this set. We use GPT-4o for LLMs. We include the optimal rate performance comparison of LLMFP and LLMFP TASK-SPECIFIC on 7 sets of queries of Coffee in Table 4. From the result, we observe that on average, LLMFP TASK-SPECIFIC improves the performance of LLMFP by 24.2% for Coffee. Note that the performance of Set 3 increases the most. We investigate the reason and notice that the type of question for this set is "supply-roastery", which asks queries like "What led to the decision to use supplier3 for the roasting facility at roastery1?". To answer this question, it is both plausible to test "using supplier3" or to test "not using supplier3" to see the performance. However, the ground truth answer for this type of question is to "not using supplier 3". As confusing queries even for humans, they are hard for LLMs to understand. Thus, for these queries, adding task-specific examples significantly improves the performance. To summarize, LLMFP is capable of achieving strong performance with no task-specific example, but easily adding task-specific examples only to FORMULATOR could improve the performance, especially when the task description or query is not clearly presented.

5 CONCLUSION

To account for the challenge of the trade-off between flexibility and task complexity for existing LLM planning works, we observe that the core of many planning problems lies in optimization problems and propose a universal approach for LLMs to solve planning problems. We propose LLMFP, a general-purpose LLM-based planning framework that captures key information from planning problems and formally formulates and solves them as optimization problems, with no task-specific examples needed. We test LLMFP on 9 diverse planning tasks with two LLMs to prove LLMFP's capability of achieving strong performance over fundamentally very different tasks and show the effectiveness of components in our framework.

Limitations One limitation of LLMFP is that it needs clear and detailed task descriptions and queries. It is hard for LLMFP to define the problems' goals and constraints if the task description is ambiguous or missing some important information. Another limitation is that since LLMFP encodes the planning problems into optimization problems and solves them with optimization solvers, the

capability of LLMFP depends on the strength of the solver. For massive databases with numerous feasible plans, it may take a longer time for the solver to search for the optimal plan. Ways to mitigate this is to introduce heuristics to prioritize a portion of the choices or to switch from solving optimization problems to satisfaction problems for planning tasks that do not require optimality.

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PLANNING ANYTHING WITH RIGOR: GENERAL-PURPOSE ZERO-SHOT PLANNING WITH LLM-BASED FORMALIZED PROGRAMMING

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A APPENDIX

A.1 Domains

We test on 9 planning problems, including 5 multi-constraint decision making tasks and 4 multi-step tasks (Li et al., 2023; Valmeekam et al., 2024; Stein & Koller, 2023):

- Coffee Coffee company sources beans from three suppliers with fixed capacity, roasts them at two facilities into dark or light coffee, and ships the roasted coffee to three retail locations. The company aims to minimize the total shipping and roasting cost while fulfilling the demand at each retail location. There are 266 different queries of 7 types in the dataset.
- Workforce Assign workers to shifts; each worker may or may not be available on a particular day. The goal is to minimize the total payments to workers while fulfilling the shift requirements for two weeks. There are 231 different queries of 5 types in the dataset.
- Facility A company currently ships its product from 5 plants to 4 warehouses. It is considering closing some plants to reduce costs. The goal is to decide which plant(s) to close to minimize transportation and fixed costs. There are 165 different queries of 4 types in the dataset.
- Task Allocation Given tasks and three robots skilled in different tasks, the goal is to assign tasks to robots to minimize finish time. The finish time counts when the last robot stops working. There are 50 different queries describing the number of different tasks. This task and its data and queries are created by us.
- Warehouse The robots need to finish tasks by visiting stations that are capable of accomplishing corresponding tasks. The goal is to find the list of stations while minimizing the total distance traveled. There are 50 different queries that include the random-length list of tasks to finish. This task and its data and queries are created by us.
- **Blocksworld** The robot has four actions: pickup, putdown, stack, and unstack. The goal is to stack the blocks in the scene from their initial setup to a specific order with minimum steps. There are 602 different queries that describe blocks' initial conditions and goal states.
- Mystery Blocksworld An obfuscated version of Blocksworld. The action and predicate names are replaced with names that logically make no sense. There are 602 different queries that describe objects' initial conditions and goal states.
- Movie The goal is to get the required snacks, watch the movie, and recover the movie and counter to the original state with minimum steps. There are 21 different queries that describe objects' initial conditions and goal states.
- **Gripper** There are robots and balls in different rooms. Each robot, with two grippers, can pick, drop, and move balls between rooms. The goal is to place balls in specific rooms with minimum steps. There are 25 different queries describing objects' initial conditions and goal states.

The queries for Coffee, Workforce, and Facility are what-if questions that change or add constraints to the existing scenarios. The queries of the rest tasks are different task initial and goal conditions. Task inputs including example queries are given in Appendix A.5.

A.2 LLMFP PERFORMANCE OVER ITERATIONS

Fig. 3 shows the performance of LLMFP over 5 iterations. The key observation is: number of iterations of Self Assess & Midification stage enables LLMFP to further improve the optimal rates, although we can observe that LLMFP does not need extensive iterations to achieve an overall satisfying performance.

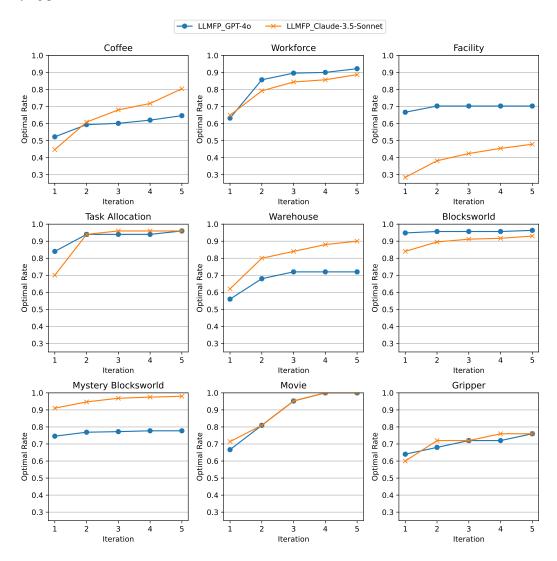


Figure 3: Optimal rates of models across LLMFP Iterations

A.3 LLMFP TIME AND COST STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS

Table 5, 6, and 7 shows the time and cost statistics of LLMFP for GPT-40 on 9 tasks.

We could observe that for both LLM querying time and solver running time, all stages of LLMFP requires reasonable runtime. The longest runtime is prompting FORMULATOR for Movie, which takes 31.9 seconds because it contains 9 actions thus requiring longer representation formulation.

From cost statistics we could observe that the average cost per query for all 9 tasks is around 0.1 dollar, indicating LLMFP is not costly.

Table 5: Average time (s) spent per query for all components of LLMFP _{GPT-40} on all 9 tasks.

Domain	Definer	Formulator	Solver	Formatter	Code Gen.	Self Assess & Mod.
Coffee	5.6	10.8	17.1	0.1	14.2	11.3
Workforce	3.4	5.1	8.3	11.0	3.1	7.8
Facility	3.8	7.5	6.4	0.7	4.3	4.0
Task Allocation	8.6	23.8	5.2	0.2	6.5	5.9
Warehouse	3.9	3.1	6.2	0.2	4.1	3.3
Blocksworld	N/A	21.0	14.6	0.6	1.9	3.4
Mys. Blocksworld	N/A	24.3	14.6	0.6	2.3	4.1
Movie	N/A	31.9	15.6	0.5	11.8	6.5
Gripper	N/A	18.3	16.0	6.9	11.2	7.0

Table 6: Average cost (\$) per query of LLMFP _{GPT-40} on 5 multi-constraint problems.

	Coffee	Workforce	Facility	Task Allocation	Warehouse
cost/query	0.139	0.140	0.083	0.081	0.085

Table 7: Average cost (\$) per query of LLMFP GPT-40 on 4 multi-step problems.

	Blocksworld	Mystery Blocksworld	Movie	Gripper
cost/query	0.122	0.105	0.131	0.128

A.4 LLMFP FAILURE CASE ANALYSIS

Here we analyze the major failure cases for all 9 tasks.

A.4.1 COFFEE

There are two major failure cases for Coffee tasks:

First, some queries are not clearly presented, indicating ambiguous information. Queries of Coffee tasks are what-if questions and are categorized into 7 sets. Each set is a type of question. We notice that the type "supply-roastery" asks queries like "What led to the decision to use supplier3 for the roasting facility at roastery1?". To answer this question, it is both plausible to test "using supplier3" or to test "not using supplier3" to see the performance. However, the ground truth answer for this type of questions is to "not using supplier 3". As confusing queries even for human, they are hard for LLMs to understand. Thus, for these queries, LLMFP sometimes generate codes with opposite meanings as what is expected.

Second, sometimes LLMFP DEFINER fails to consider all implicit constraints. The most easily neglectable implicit constraints are 1) the beans roasted in each roastery do not exceed the beans it receives, and 2) the beans ship from each roastery do not exceed the coffee it roasts. When any of the two constraints are missing, to minimize the cost, the model will automatically set the shipped beans or roasted coffee to be 0, assuming the company delivers coffee without sourcing beans or roasting coffee.

A.4.2 WORKFORCE

There are two major failure cases for Coffee tasks:

First, sometimes LLMFP fails to understand the queries. Some of the queries asks questions like 'Can Gu transition from Sun14 to Sun7 for work purposes?'. The meaning is to **force** Gu to work on Sun7 and take rest on Sun14. However, sometimes LLMFP builds variables to test both taking and not taking this transition, and returns solutions with less costs.

Second, sometimes when the solution space is large, it is hard to find the optimal solution within maximum runtime set for solver. We set the maximum solver runtime to be 15 minutes, which is exceeded when solving some hard queries.

A.4.3 FACILITY

Similarly as the first failure case of Coffee, some queries are not clearly presented. The queries are like "What justifies the opening of plant 0?", which is confusing even for humans. Both opening plant 0 and closing plant 0 to report the costs make sense to answer this query. However, the ground truth meaning of this query is to close plant 0.

A.4.4 TASK ALLOCATION

LLMFP only fails one query in Task Allocation. The reason is the FORMULATOR generates wrong values for robot finish time.

A.4.5 WAREHOUSE

The major failure case for Warehouse is CODE GENERATOR overwrites the provided API get_distance and provide 1 as the output during Code Generation. Thus, the distance between each station is mistakenly set to be 1.

A.4.6 BLOCKSWORLD

One major failure case for Blocksworld is CODE GENERATOR fails to initialize the states of predicates correctly and thoroughly. Since the query will only meantion the predicates that are true, for example, block 1 is on block 2, but when initializing, LLMFP needs to initialize both mentioned states but also unmentioned states that are false. For example, block 2 is not on block 1. However, CODE GENERATOR sometimes fails to consider all unmentioned states.

A.4.7 Mystery Blocksworld

Similarly as Blocksworld, Mystery Blocksworld has same failure case. For Mystery Blocksworld, since the predicate and action names are not meaningful, more this kind of errors are made by GPT-40. However, Claude seems to have better reasoning capability to support it from making more these errors.

A.4.8 MOVIE

There is no failure case for Movie.

A.4.9 GRIPPER

The major failure case for Gripper is when the solver fails to find the solution because there are some code generation errors, the SELF ASSESS & MODIFICATION sometimes would think it is because the timestep is not enough, thus adding another loop within the original loop. However, this would result in the program to execute forever.

A.5 INPUTS ON 9 TASKS

We include the inputs, which includes task description, background information or API, and example queries, for all 9 tasks in Fig. 4 - Fig. 12:

Coffee

Task Description:

A coffee production company sources beans from three suppliers, roasts them at one of two facilities into either dark or light coffee, and ships the roasted coffee to three retail locations. Each supplier has a limited capacity. Each roastery, with no existing inventory, can roast one unit coffee bean into one unit of dark or light coffee. The retail locations have specific demands for dark and light coffee, with no existing inventory. The company's objective is to minimize the total cost, including shipping beans, roasting, and shipping roasted coffee, while ensuring that all coffee produced meets or exceeds the demand at each retail location.

```
Background Information or API:
```

```
capacity in supplier = {'supplier1': 150, 'supplier2': 50, 'supplier3': 100}
light coffee needed for cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': 30, 'cafe3': 40}
dark coffee needed for cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': 20, 'cafe3': 100}
shipping cost from supplier to roastery = {
  ('supplier1', 'roastery1'): 5,
  ('supplier1', 'roastery2'): 4,
  ('supplier2', 'roastery1'): 6,
  ('supplier2', 'roastery2'): 3,
  ('supplier3', 'roastery1'): 2,
  ('supplier3', 'roastery2'): 7
roasting cost light = {'roastery1': 3, 'roastery2': 5}
roasting cost dark = {'roastery1': 5, 'roastery2': 6}
shipping cost from roastery to cafe = {
  ('roastery1', 'cafe1'): 5,
  ('roastery1', 'cafe2'): 3,
  ('roastery1', 'cafe3'): 6,
  ('roastery2', 'cafe1'): 4,
  ('roastery2', 'cafe2'): 5,
  ('roastery2', 'cafe3'): 2
```

math package: function math.ceil() to round UP float to int and math.floor() to round DOWN float to int Expect output format

Example Query:

- Set 1: What is the potential impact of a 29% increase in demand at cafe cafe2?
- Set 2: What if demand for light coffee at cafe cafe1 increased by 23%?
- Set 3: Why are we using supplier supplier2 for roasting facility roastery2?
- Set 4: Assume cafe cafe2 can exclusively buy coffee from roasting facility roastery2, and conversely, roasting facility roastery2 can only sell its coffee to cafe cafe2. How does that affect the outcome?
- Set 5: What if roasting facility roastery2 can only be used for cafe cafe2?
- Set 6: What if supplier supplier3 can now provide only half of the quantity?
- Set 7: The per-unit cost from supplier supplier3 to roasting facility roastery2 is now 1. How does that affect the total cost?

Figure 4: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Coffee

Workforce

Task Description:

Assign workers to work day for two weeks (day1 - 14); each work day (shift) requires different number of workers, and each worker may or may not be available on a particular day. The goal is to find the work arrangement of every day that fulfills both worker availability and the shift requirement while minimizing the total payment to workers.

Background Information or API:

```
# Number of workers required for each day, each key is a different day include both day in a week and the real date. Mon1 means Monday and 1st day for this month.
```

```
shift requirement = {
  "Mon1": 1, "Tue2": 1, "Wed3": 2, "Thu4": 2, "Fri5": 2, "Sat6": 3, "Sun7": 2,
  "Mon8": 1, "Tue9": 1, "Wed10": 1, "Thu11": 2, "Fri12": 3, "Sat13": 3, "Sun14": 2,
# Worker availability
availability = {
    "Amy": ["Tue2", "Wed3", "Fri5", "Sun7", "Tue9", "Wed10", "Thu11", "Fri12", "Sat13", "Sun14"],
    "Bob": ["Mon1", "Tue2", "Fri5", "Sat6", "Mon8", "Thu11", "Sat13"],
     "Cathy": ["Wed3", "Thu4", "Fri5", "Sun7", "Mon8", "Tue9", "Wed10", "Thu11", "Fri12", "Sat13",
'Sun14"],
    "Dan": ["Tue2", "Wed3", "Fri5", "Sat6", "Mon8", "Tue9", "Wed10", "Thu11", "Fri12", "Sat13",
"Sun14"],
    "Ed": ["Mon1", "Tue2", "Wed3", "Thu4", "Fri5", "Sun7", "Mon8", "Tue9", "Thu11", "Sat13",
    "Fred": ["Mon1", "Tue2", "Wed3", "Sat6", "Mon8", "Tue9", "Fri12", "Sat13", "Sun14"],
     "Gu": ["Mon1", "Tue2", "Wed3", "Fri5", "Sat6", "Sun7", "Mon8", "Tue9", "Wed10", "Thu11",
"Fri12", "Sat13", "Sun14"],
# Amount each worker is paid to work one day
worker pay = {
  "Amy": 10, "Bob": 12, "Cathy": 10, "Dan": 8, "Ed": 8, "Fred": 9, "Gu": 11,
Expected output format
```

Example Ouerv:

- Set 1: Can Gu's work schedule be adjusted from Sun7 to Tue2?
- Set 2: What about the scenario where Gu is promoted and starts earning 15 dollars an hour?
- Set 3: What if Gu's shift capacity is capped at 6?
- Set 4: If I need 4 more people specifically on Mondays, how can I accommodate that?
- Set 5: What occurs if Gu and Bob are prevented from working on the same day?

Figure 5: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Workforce

Facility

Task Description:

A company currently ships its product from 5 plants (Names: Plant 0, Plant 1, Plant 2, Plant 3, Plant 4) to 4 warehouses (Names: Warehouse 0, Warehouse 1, Warehouse 2, Warehouse 3). Each plant has capacity and each warehouse has demand. It is considering closing some plants to reduce costs. The goal is to find out which plant(s) should the company close and optimal transportation units from each plant to warehouse in order to minimize total cost, which includes transportation and fixed costs.

```
Background Information or API:
```

```
# Warehouse demand in thousands of units demand = [15, 18, 14, 20]
```

```
# Plant capacity in thousands of units capacity = [20, 22, 17, 19, 18]
```

```
# Fixed costs for each plant fixedCosts = [12000, 15000, 17000, 13000, 16000]
```

```
# Transportation costs per thousand units transCosts = [[4000, 2500, 1200, 2200], [2000, 2600, 1800, 2600], [3000, 3400, 2600, 3100], [2500, 3000, 4100, 3700], [4500, 4000, 3000, 3200]]
```

math package: function math.ceil() to round UP float to int and math.floor() to round DOWN float to int Expected output format

Example Query:

- Set 1: If we were to close Plant 3, what might be the potential impact?
- Set 2: Why is the edge from plant 3 to warehouse 3 not considered for selection?
- Set 3: What would happen if plant 3's opening cost is reduced by 50%?
- Set 4: What would happen if the demand were to rise by 4?

Figure 6: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Facility

Task Allocation

Task Description:

Given a list of tasks (Number_A Task A, Number_B Task B, Number_C Task C) and three heterogeneous robots (Robot A, Robot B, Robot C) that are skilled at different tasks, the goal is to find the way to assign different number of tasks to different robots and finish the tasks with minimized finish time. The three robots could work in parallel, but the finish time counts the time when the last robot stops working.

```
Background Information or API:
# Finish time for each robot-task pair
robot work time for tasks = {
    bot_work_time_for_tasks
('Robot A', 'Task A'): 24,
('Robot A', 'Task B'): 89,
('Robot A', 'Task C'): 38,
('Robot B', 'Task A'): 27,
('Robot B', 'Task B'): 58,
('Robot B', 'Task C'): 56,
('Robot C', 'Task A'): 18,
('Robot C', 'Task B'): 57,
('Robot C', 'Task C'): 49,
Max(variable list) function that takes a list as input and outputs the max of this list of variables.
Expected output format
Example Query:
```

Figure 7: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Task Allocation

Number of Task A is 54; Number of Task B is 57; Number of Task C is 74.

Warehouse

Task Description:

The robots need to finish N tasks one by one by visiting N stations (repeatable) that are capable of accomplishing corresponding tasks. The robot to start at origin, finish N given tasks with given order, and return back to origin. The goal is to find the list of N stations while minimizing the total distance travelled.

Background Information or API:

```
# Each row is the stations that could be used to accomplish the task
station task info = {
  'Task 0': [2, 3, 4, 7, 9],
  'Task 1': [1, 2],
  'Task 2': [1, 5],
  'Task 3': [3, 4],
  'Task 4': [5, 8],
  'Task 5': [0, 4, 5, 6],
  'Task 6': [3, 6, 8, 9],
  'Task 7': [0, 1],
  'Task 8': [2, 7, 8],
  'Task 9': [7, 9]
get distance(station 1: Int(), station 2: Int()) to calculate the distance: Real() between two stations(use
index 10 to represent origin)
Expected output format
```

Example Query:

Number of Tasks is 7. The Task ids needs to be accomplished are: [6, 9, 0, 2, 4, 3, 5]

Figure 8: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Warehouse

Blocksworld

Task Description:

The robot has four actions: pickup, putdown, stack, and unstack. The domain assumes a world where there are a set of blocks that can be stacked on top of each other, an arm that can hold one block at a time, and a table where blocks can be placed.

The actions defined in this domain include:

pickup: allows the arm to pick up a block if the block is clear, the block is on_table, and the arm is empty. After the pickup action, the arm will be holding the block thus not empty, and the block will no longer be on table or clear.

putdown: allows the arm to put down a block if the arm is holding a block. After the putdown action, the arm will be empty thus not holding the block, and the block will be on_table and clear. stack: allows the arm to stack a block on top of another block if the arm is holding the top block and the bottom block is clear. After the stack action, the arm will be empty thus not holding the block, the top block will be clear and on top of the bottom block, and the bottom block will no longer be clear. unstack: allows the arm to unstack a block from on top of another block if the top block is on the bottom block, the arm is empty, and the top block is clear. After the unstack action, the arm will be holding the top block thus not empty, the top block will no longer be on top of the bottom block and not clear, and the bottom block will be clear.

Background Information or API:

update_data(solver) that helps to update the unchanged predicate variables

Example Query:

You have 4 blocks.

b is on top of c.

c is on top of d.

d is on top of a.

a is on the table.

b is clear.

Your arm is empty.

Your goal is to move the blocks.

a should be on top of c.

d should be on top of a.

Figure 9: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Blocksworld

Mystery Blocksworld

Task Description:

I am playing with a set of objects. The objects can be province or not, planet or not, pain or not, and one object could craves another object. The world has a harmony state. I have four actions: attack, succumb, overcome, and feast.

The actions defined in this domain include:

attack: allows to attack an object if the object is province, the object is planet, and harmony is true. After the attack action, the object is pain, the object will no longer be on province or planet, and harmony is not true.

succumb: allows to succumb an object if the object is pain. After the succumb action, the object is no longer pain and harmony is true, and the object will be on the province and planet.

overcome: allows to overcome an object from another object if the first object is pain and the second object is province. After the overcome action, harmony become true, the first object will not pain, the first object will be province and craves the second object, and the second object will no longer be province.

feast: allows to feast an object from another object if the first object is province, the first object craves the second object, and harmony is true. After the feast action, harmony becomes not true, the first object will be pain, the first object no longer craves the second object and not province, and the second object will be province.

Background Information or API:

update_data(solver) that helps to update the unchanged predicate variables

Example Query:

You have 4 objects.

b craves c.

c craves d.

d craves a.

a is planet.

b is province.

harmony is true.

Your goal is to play with the objects to achieve:

a should craves c.

d should craves a.

Figure 10: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Mystery Blocksworld

Movie

Task Description:

You work to play a movie. You want to get several objects as snacks (objects could be chips, dip, pop, cheese, crackers), and have movie_rewound and set counter_at_zero at the end. You have nine actions: rewind-movie, reset-counter, start-movie, undo-rewind, get-chips, get-dip, get-pop, get-cheese, and get-crackers.

The actions defined in this domain include:

start-movie: allows to start movie if counter_at_zero. After the start-movie action, counter_at_zero is no longer true, and counter_at_other than zero is true.

rewind-movie: allows to rewind movie if counter_at_other_than_zero. After the rewind-movie action, movie rewound is true.

undo-rewind: allows to undo movie rewind if movie_rewound is true. After the undo-rewind action, movie rewound is no longer true.

reset-counter: allows to reset counter if counter_at_other_than_zero. After the reset-counter action, counter at other than zero is no longer true, and counter at zero is true.

get-chips: allows to get an object if counter_at_zero is true, movie_rewound is not true, and this object is chips. After the get-chips action, have_chips is true.

get-dip: allows to get an object if counter_at_zero is true, movie_rewound is not true, and this object is dip. After the get-dip action, have_dip is true.

get-pop: allows to get an object if counter_at_zero is true, movie_rewound is not true, and this object is pop. After the get-pop action, have pop is true.

get-cheese: allows to get an object if counter_at_zero is true, movie_rewound is not true, and this object is cheese. After the get-cheese action, have cheese is true.

get-crackers: allows to get an object if counter_at_zero is true, movie_rewound is not true, and this object is crackers. After the get-crackers action, have crackers is true.

Background Information or API:

update data(solver) that helps to update the unchanged predicate variables

Example Query:

You have 5 objects.

object_0 is chips.

object_1 is dip.

object 2 is pop.

object 3 is cheese.

object 4 is crackers.

counter-at-zero is true.

Your goal is to achieve:

movie-rewound

counter-at-zero

have-dip

Figure 11: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Movie

Gripper

Task Description:

You control robots, each with a left and a right gripper that can move balls between different rooms. There are three actions defined in this domain:

move: allows a robot to move from one room to another room if the robot is at room_from. After the move action, the robot is no longer at room from, and the robot will be at room to.

pick: allows a robot to pick up a ball with a gripper in a room if the robot is at this room, the ball is at this room, and the gripper is free. After the pick action, the robot carry the ball, this gripper of the robot is not free, and the ball will not at the room.

drop: allows a robot to drop a ball with a gripper in a room if the robot carry this ball, the robot is at the room. After the drop action, the robot will not carry the ball, this gripper of the robot will be free, and the ball will at the room.

Background Information or API:

update_data(solver) that helps to update the unchanged predicate variables

Example Query:

You have 1 robot. The robots' grippers are free.

You have 4 rooms.

You have 7 balls.

robot1 is at room1.

robot1 is at room1.

ball1 is at room1.

ball2 is at room2.

ball3 is at room2.

ball4 is at room2.

ball5 is at room2.

balls is at 1001112.

ball6 is at room3.

ball7 is at room2.

Your goal is to achieve:

ball1 should be at room3.

ball2 should be at room3.

ball3 should be at room4.

ball4 should be at room1.

ball5 should be at room4.

ball6 should be at room4.

ball7 should be at room2.

Figure 12: Task description, background information or API, and example queries for Gripper

A.6 EXAMPLE OUTPUTS ON COFFEE TASKS

In this section, we include the outputs of all models for the query "What is the potential impact of a 29% increase in demand at cafe cafe?". The optimal solution has total cost to be 2612.

A.6.1 BASELINES

We include the outputs of four baselines for Coffee task in Fig. 13 - Fig. 15, and analyze the failure reason in the figure descriptions:

```
Direct GPT-40 Output
                                                            Direct o1-preview Output
`json
                                                     "suppliers": {
"suppliers": {
                                                       "supplier 1 ship to roastery 1": 0,
  "supplier 1 ship to roastery 1": 100,
                                                       "supplier_1_ship_to_roastery_2": 95,
  "supplier 1 ship to roastery 2": 50,
                                                       "supplier_2_ship_to_roastery_1": 0,
  "supplier 2 ship to roastery 1": 50,
                                                       "supplier_2_ship_to_roastery_2": 50,
  "supplier 2 ship to roastery 2": 0,
                                                       "supplier_3_ship_to_roastery_1": 100,
  "supplier 3 ship to roastery 1": 100,
                                                       "supplier 3 ship to roastery 2": 0,
  "supplier 3 ship to roastery 2": 0,
                                                       "supplier 1 total supplied beans": 95,
  "supplier 1 total_supplied_beans": 150,
                                                       "supplier 2 total supplied beans": 50,
  "supplier 2 total_supplied_beans": 50,
                                                       "supplier 3 total supplied beans": 100
  "supplier 3 total supplied beans": 100
                                                     "roasteries": {
"roasteries": {
                                                       "roastery 1 dark coffee": 1,
  "roastery 1 dark coffee": 120,
                                                       "roastery_1_light_coffee": 99,
  "roastery 1 light coffee": 130,
                                                       "roastery 2 dark coffee": 145,
  "roastery 2 dark coffee": 20,
                                                       "roastery 2 light coffee": 0,
  "roastery 2 light coffee": 30,
                                                       "roastery 1 total_roasted_beans": 100,
  "roastery 1 total roasted beans": 250,
                                                       "roastery_2_total_roasted_beans": 145
  "roastery 2 total roasted beans": 50
                                                     "cafe": {
"cafe": {
                                                       "roastery 1 ship dark to cafe 1": 0,
  "roastery 1 ship dark to cafe 1": 20,
                                                       "roastery 1 ship light to cafe 1": 20,
  "roastery 1 ship light to cafe 1": 20,
                                                       "roastery 1 ship dark to cafe 2": 1,
  "roastery 1 ship dark to cafe 2": 20,
                                                       "roastery 1 ship light to cafe 2": 39,
  "roastery 1 ship light to cafe 2": 30,
                                                       "roastery 1 ship dark to cafe 3": 0,
  "roastery 1 ship dark to cafe 3": 80,
                                                       "roastery 1_ship_light_to_cafe_3": 40,
  "roastery 1 ship light to cafe 3": 80,
                                                       "roastery 2_ship_dark_to_cafe_1": 20,
  "roastery_2_ship_dark_to_cafe_1": 0,
                                                       "roastery 2 ship light to cafe 1": 0,
  "roastery_2_ship_light_to_cafe_1": 0,
                                                       "roastery 2_ship_dark_to_cafe_2": 25,
  "roastery_2_ship_dark_to_cafe_2": 20,
                                                       "roastery_2_ship_light_to_cafe_2": 0,
  "roastery_2_ship_light_to_cafe_2": 30,
                                                       "roastery_2_ship_dark_to_cafe_3": 100,
  "roastery 2 ship dark to cafe 3": 0,
                                                       "roastery 2 ship light to cafe 3": 0,
  "roastery 2 ship light to cafe 3": 0,
                                                       "total dark coffee received cafe 1": 20,
  "total dark coffee received cafe 1": 20,
                                                       "total_dark_coffee_received_cafe_2": 26,
  "total dark coffee received cafe 2": 40,
                                                       "total_dark_coffee_received_cafe_3": 100,
  "total dark coffee received cafe 3": 80,
                                                       "total_light_coffee_received_cafe_1": 20,
  "total light coffee received cafe 1": 20,
                                                       "total_light_coffee_received_cafe_2": 39,
  "total light coffee received cafe 2": 60,
                                                       "total light coffee received cafe 3": 40
  "total light coffee received cafe 3": 80
                                                     "total cost": 2767
"total cost": 2150
```

Figure 13: Output of Direct_{GPT-40} and Direct_{o1-PREVIEW} for Coffee. LLMs fail to directly solve complex multi-constraint planning tasks that involve intensive calculations.

```
CoT_GPT-40 Output
To address the problem, we need to follow these steps:
1 **Calculate the new demand for cafe2*
 - Original light coffee demand for cafe2: 30 units

    Original dark coffee demand for cafe2: 20 units
    New light coffee demand for cafe2: 30 * 1.29 = 38.7 units (round to 39 units)

 - New dark coffee demand for cafe2: 20 * 1.29 = 25.8 units (round to 26 units)
**Determine the total demand for all cafes**.
- Total light coffee demand: 20 (cafe1) + 39 (cafe2) + 40 (cafe3) = 99 units - Total dark coffee demand: 20 (cafe1) + 26 (cafe2) + 100 (cafe3) = 146 units

    3. **Check the total supply capacity**:
    Total supply capacity: 150 (supplier1) + 50 (supplier2) + 100 (supplier3) = 300 units

 - Total demand: 99 (light) + 146 (dark) = 245 units
 - Since the total supply capacity (300 units) is greater than the total demand (245 units), we can meet the demand.
4. **Optimize the shipping and roasting costs**
 - We need to minimize the total cost, which includes shipping beans from suppliers to roasteries, roasting costs, and shipping roasted coffee to cafes.
5. **Formulate the plan**:
- Allocate beans from suppliers to roasteries based on the lowest shipping cost.
 - Allocate roasting tasks to minimize roasting costs
 - Allocate shipping of roasted coffee to minimize shipping costs to cafes.
Here is the JSON response with a possible plan:
 ``json
   "suppliers": {
      uppliers": {
"supplier 1 ship_to_roastery 1": 100,
"supplier 1 ship_to_roastery 2": 50,
"supplier 2 ship_to_roastery 1": 50,
"supplier 2 ship_to_roastery 2": 0,
"supplier 3 ship_to_roastery 1": 0,
"supplier 3 ship_to_roastery 2": 100,
"supplier 1 stota_supplied_beamers": 15f
       "supplier_1_total_supplied_beans": 150, 
"supplier_2_total_supplied_beans": 50,
       "supplier_3_total_supplied_beans": 100
    "roasteries": {
      "roastery_1_dark_coffee": 100,
"roastery_1_light_coffee": 70,
"roastery_2_dark_coffee": 46,
       "roastery_2_light_coffee": 29,
"roastery_1_total_roasted_beans": 170,
       "roastery_2_total_roasted_beans": 75
   "cafe" {
      arie: {
"roastery_1_ship_dark_to_cafe_1": 20,
"roastery_1_ship_light_to_cafe_1": 20,
"roastery_1_ship_dark_to_cafe_2": 26,
"roastery_1_ship_light_to_cafe_2": 13,
      "roastery 1 ship light to cafe 2": 13, "roastery 1 ship dark_to_cafe_3": 54, "roastery 1 ship light to cafe_3": 37, "roastery 2 ship dark_to_cafe_1": 0, "roastery 2 ship light to_cafe_1": 0, "roastery 2 ship light to_cafe_2": 0, "roastery 2 ship light to_cafe_2": 0, "roastery 2 ship light to_cafe_3": 3, "roastery 2 ship light to_cafe_3": 46, "roastery 2 ship light_to_cafe_3": 3, "rotal_dark_to_ffer_erceived_cafe_1": 2
       "total_dark_coffee_received_cafe_1": 20,
       "total_dark_coffee_received_cafe_2": 26,
"total_dark_coffee_received_cafe_3": 100,
       "total_light_coffee_received_cafe_1": 20,
       "total_light_coffee_received_cafe_2": 39,
       "total_light_coffee_received_cafe_3": 40
   "total_cost": 2150
**Explanation**
The beans are allocated from suppliers to roasteries based on the lowest shipping costs.
 Roasting is done to minimize the roasting costs.
 Shipping of roasted coffee is optimized to minimize the shipping costs to cafes.
The total cost is calculated based on the shipping, roasting, and final shipping costs.
```

Figure 14: Output of CoT_{GPT-40} for Coffee. Although the reasoning of constraints makes sense, LLMs still fail to locate optimal values to fulfill the task as it involves intensive calculations.

```
Code_GPT-4o Output
 import pulp
 capacity_in_supplier = {'supplier1': 150, 'supplier2': 50, 'supplier3': 100}
 shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery
      ('supplier1', 'roastery1'): 5,
('supplier1', 'roastery2'): 4,
('supplier2', 'roastery1'): 6,
('supplier2', 'roastery1'): 3,
('supplier3', 'roastery1'): 2,
('supplier3', 'roastery2'): 7
roasting_cost_light = {'roastery1': 3, 'roastery2': 5}
roasting_cost_dark = {'roastery1': 5, 'roastery2': 6}
shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe = {
      ('roastery1', 'cafe1'): 5,
('roastery1', 'cafe2'): 3,
('roastery1', 'cafe3'): 6,
('roastery2', 'cafe1'): 4,
('roastery2', 'cafe2'): 5,
('roastery2', 'cafe3'): 2
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': 30 * 1.29, 'cafe3': 40}
dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': 20 * 1.29, 'cafe3': 100}
prob = pulp.LpProblem("Coffee Production", pulp.LpMinimize)
ship_supplier_to_roastery = pulp.LpVariable.dicts("ShipSupplierToRoastery",

[(s, r) for s in capacity_in_supplier for r in roasting_cost_light],

lowBound=0, cat='Continuous')
 roast_light = pulp.LpVariable.dicts("RoastLight", roasting_cost_light, lowBound=0, cat='Continuous')
 roast_dark = pulp.LpVariable.dicts("RoastDark", roasting_cost_dark, lowBound=0, cat='Continuous')
 ship_roastery_to_cafe_light = pulp.LpVariable.dicts("ShipRoasteryToCafeLight",
                                                                                         [(r, c) for r in roasting_cost_light for c in
 light_coffee_needed_for_cafe],
                                                                                         lowBound=0. cat='Continuous')
 ship_roastery_to_cafe_dark = pulp.LpVariable.dicts("shipRoasteryToCafePark",
[(r, c) for r in roasting_cost_dark for c in
dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe],
                                                                                       lowBound=0, cat='Continuous')
prob += pulp.lpSum([ship_supplier_to_roastery[(s, r)] * shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery[(s, r)]
    for s in capacity_in_supplier for r in roasting_cost_light]) + \
        pulp.lpSum([roast_light[r] * roasting_cost_light[r] for r in roasting_cost_light]) + \
        pulp.lpSum([roast_dark[r] * roasting_cost_dark[r] for r in roasting_cost_dark]) + \
        pulp.lpSum([ship_roastery_to_cafe_light[(r, c)] * shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe[(r, c)]
        for r in roasting_cost_light for c in light_coffee_needed_for_cafe]) + \
        pulp.lpSum([ship_roastery_to_cafe_dark[(r, c)] * shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe[(r, c)]
        for r in roasting_cost_dark for c in dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe])
  # Constraints
 for s in capacity_in_supplier:
      prob += pulp.lpSum([ship_supplier_to_roastery[(s, r)] for r in roasting_cost_light]) <= capacity_in_supplier[s]</pre>
 for r in roasting cost light:
      prob += pulp.lpSum([ship_supplier_to_roastery[(s, r)] for s in capacity_in_supplier]) == roast_light[r] + roast_dark[r]
 for c in light coffee needed for cafe:
prob += pulp.lpSum([ship_roastery_to_cafe_light[(r, c)] for r in roasting_cost_light]) ==
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe[c]
      prob += pulp.lpSum([ship_roastery_to_cafe_dark[(r, c)] for r in roasting_cost_dark]) == dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe[c]
 for r in roasting_cost_light:
      prob += pulp.lpSum([ship_roastery_to_cafe_light[(r, c)] for c in light_coffee_needed_for_cafe]) <= roast_light[r] prob += pulp.lpSum([ship_roastery_to_cafe_dark[(r, c)] for c in dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe]) <= roast_dark[r]
 prob.solve()
```

Figure 15: Output of $Code_{GPT-4O}$ for Coffee. LLM also tries to use optimization solver to solve for the problem, however, without proper analysis of constraints, it fails to notice that the updated demand for cafes needs to be integers. Instead, to account for the 29% demand increase, it directly update with "30 * 1.29" and "20 * 1.29"

A.6.2 LLMFP

We include the outputs of all stages of LLMFP for Coffee task in Fig. 16 - Fig. 20:

Definer Output

GOAL: Minimize the total cost, including shipping beans from suppliers to roasteries, roasting costs, and shipping roasted coffee to retail locations.

Decision Variables:

- Amount of beans shipped from each supplier to each roastery.
- Amount of light coffee roasted at each roastery.
- Amount of dark coffee roasted at each roastery.
- Amount of light coffee shipped from each roastery to each cafe.
- Amount of dark coffee shipped from each roastery to each cafe.

Constraints Reasoning:

- 1. Supplier capacity limits the amount of coffee beans they can supply.
- 2. Roasteries can only roast as much coffee as they receive in beans.
- 3. Roasteries must meet the demand for both light and dark coffee at each cafe.
- 4. The total amount of coffee shipped from suppliers to roasteries must equal the total amount of coffee roasted
- 5. The total amount of light and dark coffee shipped from roasteries to cafes must meet the demand at each cafe.

Constraints:

- Total beans shipped from each supplier to all roasteries ≤ Supplier capacity.
- Total beans received by each roastery = Total coffee roasted (light + dark) at that roastery.
- Total light coffee roasted at each roastery = Total light coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes.
- Total dark coffee roasted at each roastery = Total dark coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes.
- Total light coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries ≥ Light coffee needed at that cafe.
- Total dark coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries ≥ Dark coffee needed at that cafe.
- All decision variables ≥ 0 .

Figure 16: Output of LLMFP $_{\rm GPT-40}$ Definer for Coffee. LLMFP successfully defines the goal, decision variables, and constraints.

```
Formulator Output
    "variable_1": {
    "name": "beans_shipped",
    "SMT_variable": true,
          "number_of_variables": 6,
         "data_source": "shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery",
          'value": "amount of beans shipped from each supplier to each roastery",
         "specific_requirement": "total beans shipped from each supplier to all roasteries <= supplier capacity"
     "variable 2": {
          "name": "light_coffee_roasted",
         "SMT_variable": true,
"number_of_variables": 2,
          'data_source": "roasting_cost_light",
         "value": "amount of light coffee roasted at each roastery",
         "specific_requirement": "total beans received by each roastery = total coffee roasted (light + dark) at
that roastery
     "variable_3": {
     "name": "dark_coffee_roasted",
         "SMT variable": true,
          "number_of_variables": 2,
         "data_source": "roasting_cost_dark",
"value": "amount of dark coffee roasted at each roastery",
         "specific_requirement": "total beans received by each roastery = total coffee roasted (light + dark) at
that roasterv
     "variable_4": {
    "name": "light_coffee_shipped",
    "SMT_variable": true,
         "number_of_variables": 6,
         "data_source": "shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe",
"value": "amount of light coffee shipped from each roastery to each cafe",
         "specific_requirement": "total light coffee roasted at each roastery = total light coffee shipped from
that roastery to all cafes'
     "variable_5": {
    "name": "dark_coffee_shipped",
    "SMT_variable": true,
          'number_of_variables": 6,
         "data_source": "shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe",
         "value": "amount of dark coffee shipped from each roastery to each cafe",
"specific_requirement": "total dark coffee roasted at each roastery = total dark coffee shipped from
that roastery to all cafes"
     "variable_6": {
    "name": "total_cost",
          "SMT variable": true
          "number_of_variables": 1,
         "data_source": ["variable_1 variables","variable_2 variables","variable_3 variables","variable_4
variables","variable_5 variables'
         "value": "sum of shipping costs, roasting costs, and shipping roasted coffee costs",
"specific_requirement": "minimize"
         "name": "light_coffee_needed_for_cafe",
"SMT_variable": false,
          "number_of_variables": 3,
          "data_source": "light_coffee_needed_for_cafe",
          "cafe2": math.ceil(30 * 1.29),
"cafe3": 40
          "specific_requirement": "total light coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries >= light coffee
needed at that cafe
     variable_8": {
          "name": "dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe",
"SMT_variable": false,
         "number_of_variables": 3,
         "data_source": "dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe",
"value": {
    "cafe1": 20,
              "cafe2": math.ceil(20 * 1.29),
               "cafe3": 100
          'specific_requirement": "total dark coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries >= dark coffee
needed at that cafe
    }
```

Figure 17: Output of LLMFP _{GPT-40} Formulator for Coffee. LLMFP successfully formulates the decision variables with variable_1 to variable_5, account for the goal with variable_6, and consider additional constraints posed with query with variable_7 and variable_8.

```
Code Generator Output
solver = Optimize()
 # Define SMT variables
beans_shipped = {(s, r): Int(f'beans_shipped_{s}_{r}') for s in ['supplier1', 'supplier2', 'supplier3'] for r in
['roastery1', 'roastery2']}
light_coffee_roasted = {r: Int(f'light_coffee_roasted_{r}') for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']}
dark_coffee_roasted = {r: Int(f'lark_coffee_roasted_{r}') for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']}
light_coffee_shipped = {(r, c): Int(f'light_coffee_shipped_{r}_{c}') for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2'] for c in
['cafe1', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']}
dark_coffee_shipped = {(r, c): Int(f'dark_coffee_shipped_{r}_{c}') for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2'] for c in
['roafe1', 'cafe2']
['cafe1', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']}
total_cost = Int('total_cost')
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': math.cei1(30 * 1.29), 'cafe3': 40}
dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': math.cei1(20 * 1.29), 'cafe3': 100}
# Total beans shipped from each supplier to all roasteries <= Supplier capacity
capacity in_supplier = ('supplier1': 150, 'supplier2': 50, 'supplier3': 100}
for s in ['supplier1', 'supplier2', 'supplier3']:
    solver.add(Sum([beans_shipped[(s, r)] for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']]) <= capacity_in_supplier[s])</pre>
# Total beans received by each roastery = Total coffee roasted (light + dark) at that roastery for r in ['roasteryl', 'roastery2']:
      solver.add(Sum([beans_shipped[(s, r)] \ for \ s \ in \ ['supplier1', 'supplier2', 'supplier3']]) == light_coffee_roasted[r]
   dark_coffee_roasted[r])
* Total light coffee roasted at each roastery = Total light coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes for r in ['roasteryl', 'roastery2']:
solver.add(light_coffee_roasted(r] == Sum([light_coffee_shipped((r, c)) for c in ['cafe1', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']]))
# Total dark coffee roasted at each roastery = Total dark coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes
for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']:
      solver.add(dark_coffee_roasted[r] == Sum([dark_coffee_shipped[(r, c)] for c in ['cafel', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']]))
# Total light coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries >%# Light coffee needed at that cafe for c in ['cafel', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']:
      solver.add(Sum([light_coffee_shipped[(r, c)] for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']]) >=
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe[c])

# Total dark coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries ≥%# Dark coffee needed at that cafe
for c in ['cafe1', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']:
      solver.add(Sum([dark_coffee_shipped[(r, c)] for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']]) >= dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe[c])
 # All decision variables
for var in beans_shipped.values():
solver.add(var >= 0)
for var in light_coffee_roasted.values():
solver.add(var >= 0)

for var in dark coffee roasted.values():
      solver.add(var >= 0)
for var in light coffee shipped.values():
      solver.add(var >= 0)
for var in dark_coffee_shipped.values():
      solver.add(var >=
 # Calculate total cost
shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery = {
      ('supplier1', 'roastery1'): 5,
('supplier1', 'roastery2'): 4,
('supplier2', 'roastery1'): 6,
('supplier2', 'roastery2'): 3,
      ('supplier3', 'roastery1'): 2,
('supplier3', 'roastery2'): 7
roasting_cost_light = {'roastery1': 3, 'roastery2': 5}
roasting_cost_dark = {'roastery1': 5, 'roastery2': 6}
roasting_cost_dark = {'roastery1': 5, 'shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe = {
      pping_cost_from roastery_to
('roastery1', 'cafe1'): 5,
('roastery1', 'cafe2'): 3,
('roastery1', 'cafe3'): 6,
('roastery2', 'cafe1'): 4,
('roastery2', 'cafe2'): 5,
('roastery2', 'cafe3'): 2
total cost expr = Sum([
      beans_shipped([s, r]) * shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery([s, r)] for s in ['supplier1', 'supplier2', 'supplier3'] for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']
      light coffee roasted[r] * roasting cost light[r] for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']
      dark_coffee_roasted[r] * roasting_cost_dark[r] for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2']
      light_coffee_shipped[(r, c)] * shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe[(r, c)]
      for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2'] for c in ['cafe1', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']
      dark_coffee_shipped[(r, c)] * shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe[(r, c)]
      for r in ['roastery1', 'roastery2'] for c in ['cafe1', 'cafe2', 'cafe3']
solver.add(total cost == total cost expr)
solver.minimize(total_cost)
```

Figure 18: Output of LLMFP _{GPT-40} Code Generator for Coffee. LLMFP successfully generates Python codes based on the representation formulation.

```
Formatter Output
JSON:
  "suppliers": {
     "supplier 1 ship to roastery 1": 0,
    "supplier_1_ship_to_roastery_2": 95,
     "supplier_2_ship_to_roastery_1": 0,
    "supplier_2_ship_to_roastery_2": 50,
     "supplier_3_ship_to_roastery_1": 100,
     "supplier_3_ship_to_roastery_2": 0,
    "supplier_1_total_supplied_beans": 95,
     "supplier_2_total_supplied_beans": 50,
     "supplier_3_total_supplied_beans": 100
    }.
  "roasteries": {
    "roastery_1_dark_coffee": 41,
    "roastery_1_light_coffee": 59,
     "roastery_2_dark_coffee": 105,
    "roastery_2_light_coffee": 40,
    "roastery_1_total_roasted_beans": 100,
     "roastery_2_total_roasted_beans": 145
  "cafe": {
     "roastery 1 ship dark to cafe 1": 15,
    "roastery_1_ship_light_to_cafe_1": 20,
    "roastery_1_ship_dark_to_cafe_2": 26,
     "roastery_1_ship_light_to_cafe_2": 39,
    "roastery_1_ship_dark_to_cafe_3": 0,
    "roastery_1_ship_light_to_cafe_3": 0,
     "roastery_2_ship_dark_to_cafe_1": 5,
    "roastery_2_ship_light_to_cafe_1": 0,
     "roastery_2_ship_dark_to_cafe_2": 0,
     "roastery_2_ship_light_to_cafe_2": 0,
    "roastery_2_ship_dark_to_cafe_3": 100,
     "roastery_2_ship_light_to_cafe_3": 40,
    "total_dark_coffee_received_cafe_1": 20,
    "total_dark_coffee_received_cafe_2": 26,
    "total dark coffee received cafe 3": 100,
    "total_light_coffee_received_cafe_1": 20,
    "total_light_coffee_received_cafe_2": 39,
     "total light coffee received cafe 3": 40
  "total cost": 2612
Correctness reasoning:
- GOAL: The task plan aims to minimize the total cost, which is reflected in the total cost of 2612.
- Total beans shipped from each supplier to all roasteries ≤ Supplier capacity. Yes, the total beans shipped from each supplier do
not exceed their capacities.
- Total beans received by each roastery = Total coffee roasted (light + dark) at that roastery: Yes, roastery 1 receives 100 beans
and roasts 100 beans, roastery 2 receives 145 beans and roasts 145 beans.
- Total light coffee roasted at each roastery = Total light coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes: Yes, roastery 1 roasts and
ships 59 units of light coffee, roastery 2 roasts and ships 40 units of light coffee.
- Total dark coffee roasted at each roastery = Total dark coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes: Yes, roastery 1 roasts and
ships 41 units of dark coffee, roastery 2 roasts and ships 105 units of dark coffee.
- Total light coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries ≥ Light coffee needed at that cafe: No, cafe2 needs 30 units of light
coffee but receives 39 units.
- Total dark coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries ≥ Dark coffee needed at that cafe: No, cafe2 needs 20 units of dark
coffee but receives 26 units.

    All decision variables ≥ 0: Yes, all decision variables are non-negative.

Does the task plan make sense and achievable in reality and meet commonsense?: Yes, the task plan is achievable and makes
sense in reality as it meets the constraints and minimizes the total cost.
```

Figure 19: Output of LLMFP _{GPT-40} Formatter for Coffee. LLMFP format the execution result in fixed format, and analyze the correctness and reasonableness of the execution result.

Self Assess & Modification Output [[Step 1: Correctness Reasoning: The step considers the correct goal and all needed constraints. The execution result makes sense and is achievable in reality and meets commonsense. Rating: 1 How to mofify Reasoning: NULL Modified Step 1(no explanation): NULL **END** [[Step 2: Correctness Reasoning: The variables explicitly consider the query and encode all provided constraints and goals. The order makes sense, and the execution result is achievable in reality and meets commonsense. How to mofify Reasoning: NULL Modified Step 2(no explanation): NULL END]] [[Step 3: Correctness Reasoning: The code creates all needed variables and does not make up any ungiven information. It correctly addresses the query, and the execution result makes sense and is achievable in reality and meets commonsense. How to mofify Reasoning: NULL Modified Step 3(no explanation): NULL END

Figure 20: Output of LLMFP $_{GPT-40}$ Self Assess & Modification for Coffee. LLMFP checks for all 3 steps and provide ratings.

A.7 PROMPTS

A.7.1 BASELINE PROMPT

Direct Prompt

```
You have a domain and a query under this domain that you need to fulfill.
The domain is: {task}
Query: {question}
You have the access to {info_api}
What is the plan to achieve my goal? Answer by fill in this JSON response directly with no explanation:
{output_format}
```

CoT Prompt

```
You have a domain and a query under this domain that you need to fulfill.

The domain is: {task}

Query: {question}

You have the access to {info_api}

What is the plan to achieve my goal? Let's think step by step, first reason about the problem and how to solve it, then answer by fill in the JSON:

Reason:

JSON response:
{output_format}
```

Code Prompt

```
You have a domain and a query under this domain that you need to fulfill.
The domain is: {task}
Query: {question}
You have the access to {info_api}
Please write Python code to help me find the plan to achieve my goal. You can import any package and use any solver.
At the end, save your found plan in a variable named 'feedback' with the following format:
{output_format}
Please respond with code only and wrap your answer with '''python and ''':
```

A.7.2 LLMFP PROMPT

We use general templates for all tasks. The full prompts for all tasks will be released soon. Here we show the templates we have for GPT-40. Since Claude naturally considers more constraints and is more strict in assessing, we edit the prompts a little to account for the different traits of Claude, and prompts are also included in the codes.

We include the prompt template we use for GPT-40 as below:

Definer Prompt

```
You are given a task description in natural language, and you want solve it by building an optimization problem for this task.

The task is: {task_description}
You have the access to {info_api}
To get started of building the optimization problem, what is the goal, decision variables, and constraints to consider for this task?

Specifically, consider:
Goal: define the objective trying to optimize
Decision variables: identify all the decision variables involved in the problem
```

```
Constraints: key requirement for decision variables; For every pair of decision variables, carefully consider relations (explicit, implicit, underlying assumption, unmentioned commonsense) between them and explicitly include as constraint to ensure all variables are connected with each other

Response with [[GOAL: ]], [[Decision Variables: ]], [[Constraints Reasoning: ]], and [[Constraints: ]] only with no explanation and no math formulas. Try to be thorough and include all needed information as much as you can.
```

Formulator Prompt for single-step multi-constraint problems

```
You are given a Query under a task description in natural language, and
   you want solve it by building an optimization problem for this task.
   You already have considered the goal and constraints of this
   optimization problem. Your job is, given access to existing variables
    or APIs and a specific natural language query, think about other
   variables needed to encode and solve this problem with Z3 SMT solver
   and describe the important attributes of variables as a JSON format
   description. Here are some example task-output pairs to refer to:
Example task 1: There are blocks of different colors and scores in the
   scene. You need to select required number of non-repeat blocks with
   required color, while maximizing the score.
Query: I previously want to select 20 blocks that are black or red, but
   now my demand raises 9%.
GOAL: Maximize the total score of selected blocks.
Decision Variables: Indexes of blocks selected
Constraint: The required number of selected blocks is met.
Constraint: The selected blocks are non-repeat.
Constraint: The selected blocks have required color.
Variable or API:
You have the access to function math.ceil() to round UP float to int and
   math.floor() to round DOWN float to int. Please ONLY use these to
   convert from float to int.
You have access to a BlockSearch API. BlockSearch.run(color:list) gives
   1.all possible block ids of color in "color" list and 2.corresponding
    score info. BlockSearch.get_info(score_info, block_index) gives the
   score of certain block. ]
JSON description:
{
   "variable_1": {
                            "name": "blocks",
                            "SMT_variable": true,
                            "number_of_variables": math.ceil(20 * 1.09),
                            "data_source": "BlockSearch.run()",
                            "value": "selecting math.ceil(20 * 1.09)
                               blocks from black and red blocks",
                            "specific_requirement": "selected blocks are
                                black or red; non-repeat blocks"
    "variable_2": {
                            "name": "score",
                            "SMT_variable": true,
                            "number_of_variables": math.ceil(20 * 1.09),
                            "data_source": "BlockSearch.get_info()",
                            "value": "depends on variable_1 variables",
                            "specific_requirement": null
    "variable_3": {
                            "name": "total_score",
                            "SMT_variable": true,
                            "number_of_variables": 1,
                            "data_source": "variable_2 variables",
                            "value": "sum of variable_2 variables",
```

```
"specific_requirement": "equal to sum of
                                variable_2 variables, maximize"
                        },
}
Example task 2: Given a list of cities, you need to start from an origin
   city, non-repeatly visit each other city exactly once, and traval
   back to origin city, with minimized total distance travelled.
Query: Total number of cities is 10.
GOAL: Minimize the total travel distance.
Decision Variables: List of visited city indexes
Constraint: Start from and end with same city.
Constraint: Each city is visited exactly once and non-repeat.
Variable or API: You have access to a DistanceSearch() API.
   DistanceSearch.run() takes no argument and gives the distance info
   between cities, and DistanceSerarch.get_info(distance_info, city_1,
   city_2) gives the distance(a real number) between two cities.
Based on below examples, your task is to generate a JSON description to
   describe the problem.
JSON description:
    "variable_1": {
                            "name": "cities",
                            "SMT_variable": true,
                            "number_of_variables": 10,
                            "how_to_pick": "selecting 10 cities from 10
                                cities",
                            "data_source": null,
                            "specific_requirement": "non-repeat cities"
                        },
    "variable_2": {
                            "name": "distance",
                            "SMT_variable": true,
                            "number_of_variables": 10,
                            "how_to_pick": "depends on constraint_1
                                variables",
                            "data_source": "DistanceSearch.run(),
                                DistanceSerarch.get_info()",
                            "specific_requirement": "distance between
                                each city pair, and the distance back to
                                origin city"
                        },
    "variable_3": {
                            "name": "total_distance",
                            "SMT_variable": true,
                            "number_of_variables": 1,
                            "data_source": "variable_2 variables",
                            "value": "sum of variable_2 variables",
                            "specific_requirement": "equal to sum of
                                variable_2 variables, minimize"
                        },
Now, based on the examples, solve the Query under new task setting and
   respond with similar format, please explicitly specify the action/
   requirement needed to fulfill query, and explicitly take into
   consideration every constraint mentioned:
The task is: {task}
Query: {question}
{definer_response}
Variable or API:
{info_api}
Think about variables needed to encode all constraints and goal, describe
    all important attributes of variables as a JSON format description.
Make sure to explicitly consider and include requirements/constraints
 needed to answer the query. Note that to answer the query "Why do xxx
```

", you need to examine the effect of "not doing xxx" to provide reasons; and to answer the query "Why not do xxx", you need to examine the effect of "do xxx" to provide reasons.

Response with JSON only with no explanation.

Formulator Prompt for multi-step problems

```
You are given a Query under a task description in natural language, and
   you want solve it by building an optimization problem for this task.
   Your job is, given access APIs and a specific natural language query,
    think about variables needed to encode and solve this problem with
   Z3 SMT solver and describe the important attributes of variables as a
    JSON format description. Here is an example task-output pairs to
   refer to:
Example task:
You have to plan logistics to transport packages within cities via trucks
    and between cities via airplanes. Locations within a city are
   directly connected (trucks can move between any two such locations),
   and so are the cities. In each city there is exactly one truck and
   each city has one location that serves as an airport.
Here are the actions that can be performed and its preconditions and
Load truck: Load a {package} into a {truck} at a {location} only if the
   package and the truck are both at location. After the Load truck
   action, the package is not at the location and is in the truck.
Load airplane: Load a {package} into an {airplane} at a {location} only
   if the package and the airplane are both at location. After the Load
   airplane action, the package is not at the location and is in the
   airplane.
Unload truck: Unload a {package} from a {truck} at a {location} only if
   the truck is at location and the package is in truck. After the
   Unload truck action, the package is not in the truck and is at the
   location.
Unload airplane: Unload a {package} from an {airplane} at a {location}
   only if the airplane is at location and the package is in airplane.
   After the Unload airplane action, the package is not in the airplane
   and is at the location.
Drive truck: Drive a truck from one {location_1} to another {location_2}
   within a {city} only if the truck is at location_1 and both
   location_1 and location_2 are both in city. After the Drive truck
   action, the truck is not at location_1 and is at location_2.
Fly airplane: Fly an airplane from one {location_1} in a city to another
   {location_2} in another city only if both locations are airport and
   the airplane is at location_1. After the Fly airplane action, the
   airplane is not at location_1 and is at location_2.
Query: You have 2 airplanes a0 and a1, 2 trucks t0 and t1, 2 cities c0
   and c1, city c0 has location 10-0 and 10-0 is airport, city c1 has
   location 10-1 and 10-1 is airport, and a package p0. Initially, t0 is
    at location 10-0, t1 is at location 11-0, p0 is at location 11-0, a0
    and all are at 10-0. The goal is to have p0 to be at 10-0.
API: You can assume you already know T as the input. You have access to a
    update_data() API that helps to update the predicate variables.
JSON description:
    "objects": {
        "variable_1": {
            "name": "objects",
            "SMT_variable": false,
            "number_of_variables": 1,
            "data_source": "query",
            "value": "a dictionary that summarizes all objects in the
               problem: key 'package', value ['p0']; key 'airplane',
               value ['a0', 'a1']; key 'truck', value ['t0', 't1']; key
```

```
'city', value ['c0', 'c1']; key 'location', value ['10
           -0', '10-1']; key 'airport', value ['10-0', '10-1']",
        "specific_requirement": null
   },
},
"predicates": {
    "variable_2": {
        "name": "at",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "query, variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether an object is at a location at timestep: keys are
            (package/truck/airplane, location, timestep)",
        "specific_requirement": "add constraint to initialize
           timestep 0 according to query, for unmentioned objects
           explicitly set it to be False"
    "variable_3": {
        "name": "in",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "query, variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether an object is in airplane or in truck: keys are [
           package, airplane/truck, timestep]",
        "specific_requirement": "add constraint to initialize all
           values to be False at timestep 0"
    "variable 4": {
        "name": "in-city",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "query, variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether an location is in a city: keys are [location,
           city, timestep]",
        "specific_requirement": "add constraint to initialize
           timestep 0 according to query, for unmentioned objects
           explicitly set it to be False"
"actions": {
    "variable_5": {
        "name": "load_truck",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether load_truck action is performed for package, truck
            , location: keys are [package, truck, location, timestep
           ]",
        "specific_requirement": null
    "variable_6": {
        "name": "load_airplane",
        "SMT variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether load_airplane action is performed for package,
           airplane, location: keys are [package, airplane, location
           , timestep]",
        "specific_requirement": null
```

```
"variable_7": {
        "name": "unload_truck",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether unload_truck action is performed for package,
           truck, location: keys are [package, truck, location,
           timestep]",
        "specific_requirement": null
   "variable_8": {
        "name": "unload_airplane",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether unload_airplane action is performed for package,
           airplane, location: keys are [package, airplane, location
           , timestep]",
        "specific_requirement": null
   "variable_9": {
        "name": "drive_truck",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether drive_truck action is performed for truck,
           location_from, location_to, city: keys are [truck,
           location, location, city, timestep]",
        "specific_requirement": null
   },
    "variable_10": {
        "name": "fly_airplane",
        "SMT_variable": false,
        "number_of_variables": 1,
        "data_source": "variable_1",
        "value": "a dictionary of boolean variables representing
           whether fly_airplane action is performed for airplane,
           location_from, location_to: keys are [airplane, location,
            location, timestep]",
        "specific_requirement": null
"update": {
    "step_1": {
        "name": "action load_truck precondition and effect",
        "SMT_variable": null,
        "number_of_variables": null,
        "data_source": "query, variable_1, variable_5",
        "value": "add constraints for preconditions and effects of
           load_truck",
        "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t until T, for all
            package, truck, and location, assert that load_truck[
           package, truck, location, t] implies at[truck, location,
           t], at[package, location, t], not at[package, location, t
           +1], in[package, truck, t+1]"
    "step_2": {
        "name": "action load_airplane precondition and effect",
        "SMT_variable": null,
        "number_of_variables": null,
        "data_source": "query, variable_1, variable_6",
```

```
"value": "add constraints for preconditions and effects of
       load_airplane",
    "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t until T, for all
        package, airplane, and location, assert that
       load_airplane[package, airplane, location, t] implies at[
       airplane, location, t], at[package, location, t], not at[
       package, location, t+1], in[package, airplane, t+1]"
"step_3": {
    "name": "action unload_truck precondition and effect",
    "SMT_variable": null,
    "number_of_variables": null,
    "data_source": "query, variable_1, variable_7",
    "value": "add constraints for preconditions and effects of
       unload_truck",
    "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t until T, for all
        package, truck, and location, assert that unload_truck[
       package, truck, location, t] implies at[truck, location,
       t], in[package, truck, t], not in[package, truck, t+1],
       at[package, location, t+1]"
"step_4": {
    "name": "action unload_airplane precondition and effect",
    "SMT_variable": null,
    "number_of_variables": null,
    "data_source": "query, variable_1, variable_8",
    "value": "add constraints for preconditions and effects of
       unload_airplane",
    "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t until T, for all
        package, airplane, and location, assert that
       unload_airplane[package, airplane, location, t] implies
       at[airplane, location, t], in[package, airplane, t], not
       in[package, airplane, t+1], at[package, location, t+1]"
"step_5": {
    "name": "action drive_truck precondition and effect",
    "SMT_variable": null,
    "number_of_variables": null,
    "data_source": "query, variable_1, variable_9",
    "value": "add constraints for preconditions and effects of
       drive_truck",
    "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t until T, for all
        truck, location_from, location_to, city, assert that
       drive_truck[truck, location_from, location_to, city, t]
       implies at[truck, location_from, t], not at[truck,
       location_from, t+1], at[truck, location_to, t+1]"
"step_6": {
    "name": "action fly_airplane precondition and effect",
    "SMT_variable": null,
    "number_of_variables": null,
    "data_source": "query, variable_1, variable_10",
    "value": "add constraints for preconditions and effects of
       fly_airplane",
    "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t until T, for all
        airplane, location_from, location_to, assert that
       fly_airplane[airplane, location_from, location_to, t]
       implies at [airplane, location_from, t], not at [airplane,
       location_from, t+1], at[airplane, location_to, t+1]"
"step_7": {
    "name": "all_actions",
    "SMT_variable": false,
    "number_of_variables": "list of all actions",
```

```
"data_source": "variable_1, variable_5, variable_6,
               variable_7, variable_8, variable_9, variable_10",
            "value": "for each timestep t until T, a list of all possible
                actions corresponding to different objects",
            "specific_requirement": "for each timestep t until T,
                explicitly assert ONLY ONE action per timestep"
        "step_8": {
            "name": "unchanged predicate variables update",
            "SMT_variable": null,
            "number_of_variables": null,
            "data_source": "update_data()",
            "value": "update at, in, in-city using update_data()",
            "specific_requirement": "update data with update_data()"
        },
   },
    "goal": {
        "step_9": {
            "name": null,
            "SMT_variable": null,
            "number_of_variables": null,
            "data_source": null,
            "value": null,
            "specific_requirement": "assert for timestep T, package p0 is
                at location 10-0"
        }
   }
Now, based on the example, solve the Query under new task setting and
   respond with similar format, please explicitly specify the action/
   requirement needed to fulfill query in your response:
The task is:
{task}
Query:
{question}
API: You have access to T as the input, so do NOT re-initialize T
   anywhere. You have access to a update_data(solver) API that helps to
   update the unchanged predicate variables. Please ONLY use this API to
   update unchaged predicates.
Response with JSON only with no explanation.
JSON description:
```

Code Generator Prompt

```
You are given a task description in natural language, a specific natural
   language query, available APIs and variables, and a JSON description
   that summarizes important variables that guide you to encode and
   solve the problem with SMT solver.
Your task is to generate steps and corresponding Python codes that
   utilizes Z3 SMT solver to solve the problem.
For the variables summarized in the JSON description:
(1) 'name' represents the name of the variable
(2) ' SMT\_variable' indicates whether you should assign it as a normal
   variable or an SMT variable
SMT_variable Example: price = Int('price')
                      flight_index = [Int('flight_{}_index'.format(i))
                          for i in range(3)]
                      pick_ball = Bool('pick ball') # Boolean SMT
                         variable
Normal variable Example: price = 100
                         flight_index = [1, 2, 3]
(3) 'number_of_variable' represents the length of the variable
```

```
(4) 'data_source' is the source for the variable to get the data
(5) 'value' is, after you get needed data from any source, how you should
    assign these data to the variable
(6) 'specific_requirement' is if there are any specific requirements that
    needs to be considered.
For the below problem, can you generate steps and corresponding Python
   codes to encode it? Do not include any explanations. You do not need
   to solve the problem or print the solutions.
The task is: {task}
Query: {question}
{definer_response}
Variable or API:
{info_api}
JSON variable representation:
{formulator_response}
Please use a SMT variable named total_cost when calculating the total
   cost. Please put the optimization goal at the end after all needed
   calculation and constraints additions.
Make sure your code add constraints to solver that considers and could
   answer the query. Note that to answer the query "Why do xxx", you
   need to examine the effect of "not doing xxx" to provide reasons; and
    to answer the query "Why not do xxx", you need to examine the effect
    of "do xxx" to provide reasons.
Initialize a Z3 optimizer solver = Optimize() at the beginning of the
   code.
Response with Python code only with no explanation.
```

Formatter Prompt

```
You are given a task description in natural language, a specific natural
   language query, pre-defined variables, and an execution feedback by
   running a Python Code that tries to solve the task.
The task is: {task}
Query: {question}
Execution feedback: {feedback}
Variable or API:
{info_api}
If the execution feedback is runtime errors, please return RUNTIME ERROR
   for JSON: and NULL for Correctness reasoning:.
If the execution feedback is cannot find the solution, please return
   CANNOT FIND SOLUTION for JSON and NULL for Correctness reasoning:.
If the execution feedback is not runtime errors, the execution feedback
   is the solved solution for this task. Only using the information from
    Execution feedback (do not use predefined variables), transform the
   execution feedback into a JSON format task plan by filling in the
   JSON below:
{output_format}
In addition, for Correctness reasoning, please explicitly answer one by
   one does the task plan satisfy these constraints? Include one sentece
    explanation for each constaint:
{{definer_response}}}
Then explicitly answer and explain in one sentence: Does the task plan
   make sense and achievable in reality and meet commonsense?:
Please include your response here with no explanations:
[ [
JSON:
Correctness reasoning:
```

Self Assess & Modification Prompt

```
You are given a task and steps that tries to solve it as an optimization
   problem. The steps include:
1) specifying the goal and constraints of the optimization problem.
2) a JSON description that summarizes important variables that guide to
   encode and solve the problem with Z3 SMT solver.
3) the Python code to encode and solve the problem with Z3 SMT solver.
Your goal is to, based on the task description, specific query, available
    API or variables, and runtime execution feedback (it could either be
    an execution error or a generated plan if there's no runtime error),
    assess whether any steps 1-3 are correct.
The task is: {task}
Query: {question}
Variable or API:
{info_api}
Steps to judge:
1) {definer_response}
2) {formulator_response}
3) {code_generator_response}
Execution feedback: {feedback}
Based on the previous information, evaluate whether steps 1-3 are correct
For Step 1: Does the step consider correct goal and all needed
   constraints? Are there unnecessary or missing constraints? Does the
   execution result make sense and achievable in reality and meet
   commonsense?
For Step 2: Do the variables explicitly consider the query? Do the
   variables explicitly consider and encode all provided constraints and
    goal? Does the order make sense? Does the execution result make
   sense and achievable in reality and meet commonsense?
For Step 3: Does the code create all needed variables? Does the code make
    up any ungiven information? Does the code correctly address the
    query? Does the execution result make sense and achievable in reality
    and meet commonsense?
Please reason the correctness with task context, rate each step with a
   binary score: 1 is correct, 0 is incorrect, think about how to modify
    in detail according to task and query, and modify the step if you
    think it is incorrect.
For Step 2 modification, please write in JSON format. For Step 3
   modification, please write in Python and do noy change the content
   after line 'if solver.check() == sat: '.
Your response format should be below, put NULL to How to mofify Reasoning
    and Modified Step if you think the step is correct, do not include
   extra explanation:
[[Step 1:
Correctness Reasoning:
Rating:
How to mofify Reasoning:
Modified Step 1 (no explanation):
END
11
[[Step 2:
Correctness Reasoning:
Rating:
How to mofify Reasoning:
Modified Step 2 (no explanation):
END
]]
[[Step 3:
Correctness Reasoning:
Rating:
How to mofify Reasoning:
Modified Step 3 (no explanation):
END
]]
```

A.7.3 PROMPTS AND OUTPUT FOR LLMFP WITH MILP SOLVER FOR COFFEE EXAMPLE

DEFINER and FORMATTER prompt remain exactly the same as for SMT solver.

We include the comparison of prompts for FORMULATOR, CODE GENERATOR, and SELF ASSESS & MODIFICATION in Fig. 21 to 23 and labelled all the differences with red. We then include the output of FORMULATOR and CODE GENERATOR in Fig. 24 and Fig. 25. The key takeaway is it is very easy to switch from one solver to another with LLMFP, as the inner logic is same: building an optimization problem.

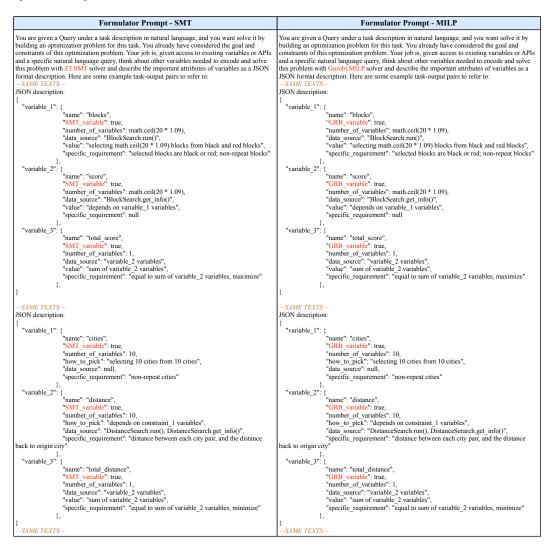


Figure 21: The Formulator prompt difference when switching from using Z3 SMT solver to Gurobi MILP solver.

Code Generator Prompt - SMT

You are given a task description in natural language, a specific natural language query, available APIs and variables, and a JSON description that summarizes important variables that guide you to encode and solve the problem with SMT solver. Your task is to generate steps and corresponding Python codes that utilizes Z3 SMT solver to solve the problem. For the variables summarized in the JSON description:

- (1) 'name' represents the name of the variable
- (2) 'SMT_variable' indicates whether you should assign it as a normal variable or an SMT variable

SMT variable Example: price = Int('price')

flight_index = [Int('flight_{})_index'.format(i)) for i in range(3)]

pick_ball = Bool('pick ball') # Boolean SMT variable

Normal variable Example: price = 100

flight index = [1,2,3]

- (3) 'number of variable' represents the length of the variable
- (4) 'data_source' is the source for the variable to get the data
- (5) 'value' is, after you get needed data from any source, how you should assign these data to the variable
- (6) 'specific_requirement' is if there are any specific requirements that needs to be considered.

-SAME TEXTS

Initialize a Z3 optimizer solver = Optimize() at the beginning of the code.

Response with Python code only with no explanation.

Code Generator Prompt - MILP

You are given a task description in natural language, a specific natural language query, available APIs and variables, and a JSON description that summarizes important variables that guide you to encode and solve the problem with Gurobi MILP solver.

Your task is to generate steps and corresponding Python codes that utilizes Gurobi MILP solver to solve the problem. For the variables summarized in the JSON description:

- (1) 'name' represents the name of the variable
- (2) 'GRB variable' indicates whether you should assign it as a normal variable or an GRB variable

GRB_variable Example: w = model.addVar(vtype=GRB.INTEGER, name="w") # Integer GRB variable

vars list = model.addVars(3, vtype=GRB.INTEGER, name="x") # List of Integer GRB variables of leangth 3 z = model.addVar(vtype=GRB.BINARY, name="z") # Boolean GRB variable

Normal variable Example: price = 100

flight_index = [1,2,3]

- (3) 'number_of_variable' represents the length of the variable
- (4) 'data source' is the source for the variable to get the data
- (5) 'value' is, after you get needed data from any source, how you should assign these data to the variable
- (6) 'specific requirement' is if there are any specific requirements that needs to be considered.

-SAME TEXTS-

Initialize a Z3 optimizer model = Model("model") at the beginning of the code.

Response with Python code only with no explanation.

Figure 22: The Code Genetator prompt difference when switching from using Z3 SMT solver to Gurobi MILP solver.

Code Generator Prompt - SMT

You are given a task and steps that tries to solve it as an optimization problem. The steps include:

- 1) specifying the goal and constraints of the optimization problem.
- 2) a JSON description that summarizes important variables that guide to encode and solve the problem with Z3 SMT solver.
- 3) the Python code to encode and solve the problem with Z3 SMT solver.

Your goal is to, based on the task description, specific query, available API or variables, and runtime execution feedback (it could either be an execution error or a generated plan if there's no runtime error), assess whether any steps 1-3 are correct. -SAME TEXTS

Self Assess & Modification Prompt - MILP

You are given a task and steps that tries to solve it as an optimization problem. The steps include:

- 1) specifying the goal and constraints of the optimization problem.
- 2) a JSON description that summarizes important variables that guide to encode and solve the problem with Gurobi MILP
- 3) the Python code to encode and solve the problem with Gurobi MILP solver.

Your goal is to, based on the task description, specific query, available API or variables, and runtime execution feedback (it could either be an execution error or a generated plan if there's no runtime error), assess whether any steps 1-3 are correct. SAME TEXTS-

Figure 23: The Self Assess & Modification prompt difference when switching from using Z3 SMT solver to Gurobi MILP solver.

```
Formulator Output - MILP
"variable_1": {
    "name": "x_supplier_roastery",
     "GRB_variable": true,
     "number_of_variables": 6,
     "data_source": "capacity_in_supplier, shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery",
"specific_requirement": "amount of beans shipped from each supplier to each roastery"
"variable_2": {
     "name": "y_light_roastery",
     "GRB_variable": true,
     "number_of_variables": 2,
     "data_source": "roasting_cost_light",
     "specific_requirement": "amount of light coffee roasted at each roastery"
 'variable_3": {
    "name": "y_dark_roastery",
     "GRB_variable": true,
     "number_of_variables": 2,
     "data_source": "roasting_cost_dark",
"specific_requirement": "amount of dark coffee roasted at each roastery"
 variable_4": {
    "name": "z_light_roastery_cafe",
     "GRB_variable": true,
     "number_of_variables": 6,
     "data_source": "shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe",
     "specific_requirement": "amount of light coffee shipped from each roastery to each cafe"
"variable_5": {
    "name": "z_dark_roastery_cafe",
     "GRB_variable": true,
     "number_of_variables": 6,
     "data_source": "shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe",
     "specific_requirement": "amount of dark coffee shipped from each roastery to each cafe"
 "variable_6": {
    "name": "total_cost",
     "GRB_variable": true,
     "number_of_variables": 1,
     "data_source": "variable_1, variable_2, variable_3, variable_4, variable_5",
     "value": "sum of shipping, roasting, and shipping costs", "specific_requirement": "minimize"
"number_of_variables": 3,
     "data_source": "light_coffee_needed_for_cafe",
"specific_requirement": "cafe2_demand_increased_by 29%"
 "variable_8": {
    "name": "dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe",
     "GRB_variable": false,
     "number_of_variables": 3,
     "data_source": "dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe",
     "specific_requirement": "cafe2 demand increased by 29%"
}
```

Figure 24: Output of Formulator for Coffee after switching the solver to MILP, using GPT-40.

```
Code Generator Output -MILP
model = Model("model")
capacity_in_supplier = {'supplier1': 150, 'supplier2': 50, 'supplier3': 100}
shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery = {
      ('supplier1', 'roastery1'): 5, ('supplier1', 'roastery2'): 4,
     ('supplier2', 'roastery1'): 6,
('supplier2', 'roastery2'): 3,
('supplier3', 'roastery1'): 2,
('supplier3', 'roastery1'): 7
, roasting_cost_light = {'roastery1': 3, 'roastery2': 5}
roasting_cost_dark = {'roastery1': 5, 'roastery2': 6}
shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe = {
      ('roastery1', 'cafe1'): 5, ('roastery1', 'cafe2'): 3,
      ('roastery1', 'cafe3'): 6,
('roastery2', 'cafe1'): 4,
      ('roastery2', 'cafe2'): 5, ('roastery2', 'cafe3'): 2
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': 30, 'cafe3': 40}
dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe = {'cafe1': 20, 'cafe2': 20, 'cafe3': 100}
# Increase demand for cafe2 by 29%
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe['cafe2'] = math.ceil(light_coffee_needed_for_cafe['cafe2'] * 1.29)
dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe['cafe2'] = math.ceil(dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe('cafe2'] * 1.29)
 # Decision Variables
x_supplier_roastery = model.addVars(shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery.keys(), vtype=GRB.CONTINUOUS,
name="x_supplier_roastery" which tanks the standard (shipping_oss_rism_supplier_roastery = model.addVars(roasting_cost_light_keys(), vtype=GRB.CONTINUOUS, name="y_light_roastery")
y_dark_roastery = model.addVars(roasting_cost_dark.keys(), vtype=GRB.CONTINUOUS, name="y_dark_roastery")
z_light_roastery_cafe = model.addVars(shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe.keys(), vtype=GRB.CONTINUOUS,
name="z_light_roastery_cafe")
z_dark_roastery_cafe = model.addVars(shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe.keys(), vtype=GRB.CONTINUOUS,
name="z dark roastery cafe")
 # Constraints
             beans shipped from each supplier to all roasteries \leq \!\! \$^{\square} supplier capacity
for supplier in capacity_in_supplier:
   model.addConstr(sum(x_supplier_roastery[supplier, roastery] for roastery in roasting_cost_light.keys()) <=</pre>
capacity_in_supplier[supplier])
 F Sum of beans received by each roastery from all suppliers = sum of light and dark coffee roasted at that roastery
for roastery in roasting_cost_light.keys():
model.addConstr(sum(x_supplier_roastery[supplier, roastery] for supplier in capacity_in_supplier.keys()) ==
y_light_roastery[roastery] + y_dark_roastery[roastery])
 # Sum of light coffee roasted at each roastery = sum of light coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes
for roastery in roasting cost light.keys():
      model.addConstr(y_light_roastery[roastery] == sum(z_light_roastery_cafe[roastery, cafe] for cafe in
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe.keys()))
 # Sum of dark coffee roasted at each roastery = sum of dark coffee shipped from that roastery to all cafes
for roastery in roasting_cost_dark.keys():
model.addConstr(y_dark_roastery[roastery] == sum(z_dark_roastery_cafe[roastery, cafe] for cafe in
dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe.keys()))
      m of light coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries ≥%# light coffee needed for that cafe
for cafe in light_coffee_needed_for_cafe:
      model.addConstr(sum(z_light_roastery_cafe[roastery, cafe] for roastery in roasting_cost_light.keys()) >=
light_coffee_needed_for_cafe[cafe])
 # Sum of dark coffee shipped to each cafe from all roasteries ≥%# dark coffee needed for that cafe
for cafe in dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe:
     model.addConstr(sum(z_dark_roastery_cafe[roastery, cafe] for roastery in roasting_cost_dark.keys()) >=
dark_coffee_needed_for_cafe[cafe])
 # Objective: Minimize the total cost
total_cost = model.addVar(vtype=GRB.CONTINUOUS, name="total_cost")
model.addConstr(total_cost
      sum(shipping cost from supplier to roastery[supplier, roastery] * x supplier roastery[supplier, roastery] for
sumplier, roastery in shipping_cost_from_supplier_to_roastery.keys();
sum(roasting_cost_light[roastery] * y_light_roastery[roastery] for roastery in roasting_cost_light.keys()) +
sum(roasting_cost_dark[roastery] * y_lark_roastery[roastery] for roastery in roasting_cost_dark.keys()) +
sum(shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe[roastery, cafe] * z_light_roastery_cafe[roastery, cafe] for roastery, cafe] for roastery.cafe
in shipping cost from roastery to cafe.keys()) +
   sum(shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe[roastery, cafe] * z_dark_roastery_cafe[roastery, cafe] for roastery, cafe in
shipping_cost_from_roastery_to_cafe.keys())
model.setObjective(total cost, GRB.MINIMIZE)
   Optimize model
model.optimize()
```

Figure 25: Output of Code Generator for Coffee after switching the solver to MILP, using GPT-4o.